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CLAIMS

(57)[Claim(s)]

[Claim 1]

A production method of a neural stem cell culturing selectively iris color matter epithelial cells isolated from an eyeball of mammalian with a floating condensation soul culturing method.

An iris organization extraction process that said iris color matter epithelial cell extracts an iris organization from an eyeball of a <u>nonhuman mammal</u>,

A production method of the neural stem cell according to claim 1 isolating according to an iris color matter epithelium partition process which separates an iris color matter epithelium from the above-mentioned iris organization which extracted.

[Claim 3]

A production method of the neural stem cell according to claim 1 or 2 in which said mammalian is a mammalian adult.

[Claim 4]

A neural stem cell production process which produces a neural stem cell by culturing selectively iris color matter epithelial cells isolated from an eyeball of mammalian with a floating condensation soul culturing method,

A production method of a neural cell containing a neural stem cell part chemically-modified which makes a neural stem cell obtained by the above-mentioned neural stem cell production process specialize in a neural cell] degree.

[Claim 5]

A neural stem cell production process which produces a neural stem cell by culturing selectively iris color matter epithelial cells isolated from an eyeball of mammalian with a floating condensation soul culturing method,

A production method of a neural cell including an adhesion cultivation process which cultures a neural stem cell obtained by the above-mentioned neural stem cell production process by adhesion cultivation.

[Claim 6]

An iris organization extraction stage where said iris color matter epithelial cell extracts an iris organization from an eyeball of a <u>nonhuman mammal</u>,

A production method of the neural cell <u>according to claim 4 or 5</u> isolating by an iris color matter epithelium separation stage of separating an iris color matter epithelium from the abovementioned iris organization which extracted.

[Claim 7]

A production method of a neural cell given in any 1 paragraph of claims 4 thru/or 6 in which said mammalian is a mammalian adult.

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DETAILED DESCRIPTION

[Detailed Description of the Invention]

[0001]

[Field of the Invention]

This invention relates to the method of producing a neural cell from the neural stem cell obtained by production method of the neural stem cell of the iris color matter epithelial cell origin of mammalian, and a method for the same, and this neural stem cell, and the neural cell obtained by the method.

[0002]

[Description of the Prior Art]

In recent years, it is reported that existence of the neural stem cell in a brain and a spine is accepted, and an embryonic stem cell specializes to a specific central nervous system cell, and the expectation for central nervous system regeneration medicine is growing. The neurosphere method (floating condensation soul cultivation) is established as separation and the alternative culturing method of a neural stem cell. The differentiation—inducing method of the neural stem cell which carries out differentiation inducing of the neural stem cell to a neural cell is also reported by by cultivating sphere (condensation soul) which a neural stem cell forms by the above—mentioned floating condensation soul culture in adhesion cultivation. [0003]

It is reported by by transplanting the neural stem cell or embryonic stem cell of a brain and spine origin in the living body that the this transplanted cell is adapted for environment, and specializes to a specific nerve cell (Nature(2001)414,112-117 review (literature (1))).
[0004]

However, when the application to the medical science of a brain, the neural stem cell of spine origin, or an embryonic stem cell is considered, the problem of the immunological rejection by a cell transplant, an ethical problem, and the demand of the sources of transplanted cells and the problem of many of which imbalanced supplies arise.

[0005]

Then, if it becomes possible to use as a source of transplantation for central nervous system reproduction of the cell originating in the individual itself [used as the candidate for transplantation], autotransplantation becomes possible and the above-mentioned problem can be solved. As a cell it is expected as a source of transplantation for such central nervous system reproduction that use is, there are iris color matter epithelial cells of an eyeball. iris color matter epithelial cells — a patient — it is possible to extract a part of the cell from the person himself/herself.

[0006]

Iris color matter epithelial cells are one of the cells which is building the iris which is an organization for adjusting the light volume which opens or narrows a pupil according to light volume, and reaches the retina. The generating origin of the above-mentioned iris color matter epithelial cells originates in a neural plate like retinal pigment epithelial cells and ciliary epithelial cells. The retina is built from two or more stratum compactum, and the above-mentioned retinal pigment epithelial cells have covered the receptor layer which is stratum compactum of the

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outermost part of the retina. A ciliary epithelium is an organization which exists in the interim position of the iris and the retina.

[0007]

In the eye of the adult newt of a urodele amphibian, it is known that the cell which exists in two or more stratum compactum which is building the above-mentioned retina will be thoroughly reproduced by the transdifferentiation of retinal pigment epithelial cells. It is also known in the eye of an adult newt for many years that a lens (lens) will be reproduced. Reproduction of the lens in the eye of this newt is materialized when iris color matter epithelial cells carry out transdifferentiation to a lens cell.

[8000]

Having the transdifferentiation ability to a lens or a nerve cell is shown by the in vitro culture experiment until now also about the retinal pigment epithelial cells of some not only amphibians but fishes, the birds of infancy, and the mammals of infancy.

[0009]

For example, in mammalian, although it is the stage when the fetal period was restricted by the experiment under culture, it is reported that the retinal pigment epithelial cells have the transdifferentiation ability to a nerve cell (Brain Res.(1995)677:300-310 (literature (2))). However, in the above-mentioned literature (2), the transdifferentiation ability to the nerve cell of the retinal pigment epithelial cells in the stage after the stage when the fetal period of mammalian was restricted is denied.

[0010]

In a fetal period, a possibility that many comparatively undifferentiated cells in each organization exist since it is a generating process, and the comparatively undifferentiated cell exists if it is the stage when the fetal period was restricted also in retinal pigment epithelial cells is high. Thus, if it is a comparatively undifferentiated cell, it is possible to carry out differentiation inducing to a nerve cell.

[0011]

However, in each organization of a mammalian adult, it is rare that the comparatively undifferentiated cell exists. Since the retinal pigment epithelial cells of a mammalian adult are cells which specialized highly, separation and culture of a cell are difficult. For this reason, it is difficult to carry out transdifferentiation of the retinal pigment epithelial cells in the stage after the stage when the fetal period of mammalian was restricted to a nerve cell. That is, the retinal pigment epithelial cells of a mammalian adult cannot be made into the source of transplantation for central nervous system reproduction at present.

[0012]

In research of before about ciliary epithelial cells, By showing that sphere (condensation soul) is formed by culturing the ciliary epithelial cells of mammals adult origin by the above-mentioned floating condensation soul culture, and cultivating this condensation soul in adhesion cultivation further, It is reported that a rhodopsin positive cell is obtained (Science 2000 March 17;287 (5460):2032-2036, Tropepe V et al. (literature (3))).
[0013]

however, the case where the application to medical science is considered — a patient — it is dramatically difficult to obtain the ciliary epithelial cells of the person himself/herself. In the above-mentioned literature (3), it is [that it is only claimed that the stem cell of the retina exists in the ciliary epithelial cells of mammals adult origin, and], and there is no statement about relation with a neural stem cell.

[0014]

An organization is small and iris color matter epithelial cells also have few cell numbers. For this reason, although isolation culture of this iris color matter epithelial cell has been made difficult, this invention person has reported having succeeded in carrying out isolation culture of the iris color matter epithelial cells of the chicken of a fowl before (Experimental Cell Res.(1998) 245,245-251 (literature (4))). It is shown to the above-mentioned literature (4) by the experiment under culture that the iris color matter epithelial cells of the chicken of a fowl have the transdifferentiation ability to a lens.

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[0015]

this invention person enabled isolation culture of the iris cell of mammalian (a mouse, a rat, the Homo sapiens embryo) by adding change to the method of the above-mentioned literature (4) before (nature neuroscience(2001)4 (12), 1163 (literature (5))). [0016]

In the above-mentioned literature (5), when it isolated and primary culture of the iris organization of an adult rat was carried out, it was checked that some cells reveal a neural marker, but the neural marker which specialized unique was not detected. Then, in order to obtain the visual cells of the retina, when carrying out work important for the generating time of visual cells to the cultured iris cell carried out the forcible manifestation of the Crx gene suggested, it was checked that the iris cell which cultivated [above-mentioned] produces rhodopsin protein indispensable to a photoreception function.

[0017]

[Problem(s) to be Solved by the Invention]

However, in isolation of the iris cell in the above-mentioned conventional mammalian adult, and a culturing method, the neural stem cell used as the source of transplantation for reproducing a central nervous system cannot be obtained. Although it makes it possible to carry out isolation culture of the iris organization from a mammalian adult in the above-mentioned literature (5), the method isolated from the iris organization of a mammalian adult in iris color matter epithelial cells is not established.

[0018]

According to the above-mentioned literature (5), it is shown by by isolating and culturing adult Latt's iris cell that the cell which produces rhodopsin protein is obtained from an iris cell. Rhodopsin protein is protein mostly contained in the rod cell (rod cell) and cone (cone cell) which are the light receiving organs of the retina. However, it is difficult to obtain so much the cell which cannot proliferate an iris cell stably as an undifferentiated stem cell, and produces rhodopsin protein in the method of the above-mentioned literature (5). [0019]

In order to obtain the cell which produces rhodopsin protein from adult Latt's iris cell according to the above-mentioned literature (5), the transgenics for carrying out the forcible manifestation of the Crx gene is needed. However, when the application to medical science is considered, performing transgenics has danger, such as DNA damage, and it is not preferred. [0020]

Therefore, it is difficult to produce the neural stem cell which serves as a source of transplantation for reproducing a central nervous system from the iris organization of mammalian adult origin at present as a matter of fact.

[0021]

iris color matter epithelial cells — a patient — since it is possible to extract a part of the cell from the person himself/herself, if iris color matter epithelial cells become usable as a neural stem cell, it is utilizable as a source of transplanted cells for central nervous system reproduction of a brain, an eye, etc. That is, regeneration medicine using a patient's own cell will be realized. Therefore, if iris color matter epithelial cells become usable as a neural stem cell, it is expected that a contribution important for the therapeutic method for the central—nerves disease which the effective therapeutic method has not established now, or retina diseases of the nervous system is brought about.

[0022]

This invention is made in view of the above-mentioned conventional problem, and the purpose, It is in providing the neural stem cell obtained by production method of the neural stem cell of the iris color matter epithelial cell origin of the mammalian which can solve the problem of the immunological rejection by the cell transplant in central nervous system reproduction, an ethical problem, and which imbalanced problem of the demand of the sources of transplanted cells, and supply, and a method for the same. Other purposes of this invention are to provide the neural cell obtained by production method of the neural cell which can carry out differentiation inducing of the neural stem cell of the iris color matter epithelial cell origin of the above-mentioned

mammalian to a neural cell, and a method for the same.

[0023]

[Means for Solving the Problem]

By culturing selectively iris color matter epithelial cells purely isolated from an eyeball of mammalian with a floating condensation soul culturing method, as a result of considering an aforementioned problem wholeheartedly, this invention persons find out uniquely that it is possible to produce a neural stem cell, and came to complete this invention. [0024]

A production method of a neural stem cell of this invention is characterized by culturing selectively iris color matter epithelial cells isolated from an eyeball of mammalian with a floating condensation soul culturing method, in order to solve an aforementioned problem. [0025]

According to the above-mentioned invention, conventionally with an isolation method of a publicly known iris color matter epithelium of a mammalian adult. Extract an iris organization from an eyeball of mammalian and an iris color matter epithelium is isolated in an iris organization, A condensation soul (sphere) which a neural stem cell forms, and a dramatically similar condensation soul can be acquired by cultivating an iris color matter epithelium which isolated selectively by separation of a neural stem cell, and the neurosphere method (floating condensation soul cultivation) conventionally publicly known as an alternative culturing method. [0026]

The condensation soul of the above-mentioned iris color matter epithelium origin can derive differentiation to a nerve cell by cultivating in a culture medium which added a blood serum and a publicly known growth factor conventionally so that it may mention later. A condensation soul of the above-mentioned iris color matter epithelium origin specializes to a nerve cell also by transplanting in the living body so that it may mention later. Therefore, a cell of the above-mentioned such comparatively undifferentiated iris color matter epithelium origin of a state is called a neural stem cell of iris color matter epithelial cell origin of mammalian.

Therefore, a neural stem cell which serves as a source of transplantation for reproducing a central nervous system from iris color matter epithelial cells of mammalian is producible. [0028]

In a production method of the above-mentioned neural stem cell a production method of a neural stem cell of this invention, The above-mentioned iris color matter epithelial cells are characterized by being isolated from an eyeball of mammalian according to an iris organization extraction process of extracting an iris organization, and an iris color matter epithelium partition process which separates an iris color matter epithelium from the above-mentioned iris organization which extracted.

[0029]

Therefore, a neural stem cell which serves as a source of transplantation for reproducing a central nervous system from iris color matter epithelial cells of mammalian is producible. [0030]

A neural stem cell of this invention is obtained by a production method of the above-mentioned neural stem cell.

[0031]

So, the neural stem cell using a neural stem cell production method of this invention and a method for the same can provide a source of transplanted cells which can solve a problem of immunological rejection by a cell transplant in central nervous system reproduction, an ethical problem, and which imbalanced problem of demand of sources of transplanted cells, and supply. Therefore, a neural stem cell using a neural stem cell production method of this invention and a method for the same has a high possibility of bringing about a contribution important for a therapeutic method for a central—nerves disease which an effective therapeutic method has not established now, or retina diseases of the nervous system.

This invention is characterized by a production method of a neural cell comprising the following,

in order to solve an aforementioned problem.

A neural stem cell production process which produces a neural stem cell by culturing selectively iris color matter epithelial cells isolated from an eyeball of mammalian with a floating condensation soul culturing method.

A neural stem cell part chemically-modified [which makes a neural stem cell obtained by the above-mentioned neural stem cell production process specialize in a neural cell] degree.

[0033]

. According to the above-mentioned invention, culture a neural stem cell of iris color matter epithelial cell origin of the above-mentioned mammalian with a publicly known culturing method conventionally. Or differentiation inducing of the neural stem cell of iris color matter epithelial cell origin of the above-mentioned mammalian can be carried out to a neural cell by transplanting the above-mentioned neural stem cell with a publicly known implanting method conventionally in the living body.

[0034]

This invention is characterized by a production method of a neural cell comprising the following, in order to solve an aforementioned problem.

A neural stem cell production process which produces a neural stem cell by culturing selectively iris color matter epithelial cells isolated from an eyeball of mammalian with a floating condensation soul culturing method.

An adhesion cultivation process which cultures a neural stem cell obtained by the abovementioned neural stem cell production process by adhesion cultivation.

[0035]

According to the above-mentioned invention, differentiation inducing of the neural stem cell of iris color matter epithelial cell origin of the above-mentioned mammalian can be carried out to a neural cell by culturing a neural stem cell of iris color matter epithelial cell origin of the above-mentioned mammalian by publicly known adhesion cultivation conventionally.

[0036]

Differentiation inducing of the neural stem cell can be carried out to a neural cell by adding to a culture medium for performing adhesion culture combining a publicly known growth factor and a blood serum conventionally.

[0037]

Therefore, a neural cell obtained by production method of a neural cell which can carry out differentiation inducing of the neural stem cell of iris color matter epithelial cell origin of the above-mentioned mammalian to a neural cell, and a method for the same can be provided. [0038]

In a production method of the above-mentioned neural cell a production method of a neural cell of this invention, The above-mentioned iris color matter epithelial cells are characterized by being isolated from an eyeball of mammalian by iris organization extraction stage of extracting an iris organization, and an iris color matter epithelium separation stage of separating an iris color matter epithelium from the above-mentioned iris organization which extracted. [0039]

Therefore, a neural cell obtained by production method of a neural cell which can carry out differentiation inducing of the neural stem cell of iris color matter epithelial cell origin of the above-mentioned mammalian to a neural cell, and a method for the same can be provided. [0040]

A neural cell of this invention is obtained by a production method of the above-mentioned neural cell.

[0041]

So, a neural cell obtained by production method of a neural stem cell obtained by production method of a neural stem cell of this invention, and a method for the same, and a neural cell, and a method for the same, A possibility of bringing about a contribution important for a therapeutic method for a central-nerves disease which an effective therapeutic method has not established

now, or retina diseases of the nervous system is high.

[0042]

[Embodiment of the Invention]

[Embodiment 1]

It will be as follows if one gestalt of operation of this invention is explained based on <u>drawing 1</u> thru/or <u>drawing 2</u>. This invention is not limited to this.

[0043]

[0045]

this invention person is the purpose of solving the problem of the immunological rejection by the cell transplant in central nervous system reproduction, an ethical problem, and which imbalanced problem of the demand of the sources of transplanted cells, and supply, and produced the neural stem cell of the iris color matter epithelial cell origin of mammalian.

[0044]

The production method of the neural stem cell of this embodiment is a method of culturing selectively the iris color matter epithelial cells isolated from the eyeball of mammalian with a floating condensation soul culturing method.

Namely, the production method of the neural stem cell of this embodiment, As shown in <u>drawing 1</u>, the iris color matter epithelial cell isolation process (Step 1 and a following step are abbreviated to S) that iris color matter epithelial cells are isolated from the eyeball of mammalian, and the alternative cultivation process (S2) which cultures the iris color matter epithelial cells which isolated selectively with a floating condensation soul culturing method are included at least. The production method of the neural stem cell concerning this invention is not limited to this, and other processes may be included.

The above-mentioned mammalian used for the production method of the neural stem cell of this embodiment may be an individual of which stage of a to [from an embryo / an adult]. That is, the production method of the neural stem cell of this embodiment can produce the neural stem cell of the iris color matter epithelial cell origin of a mammalian adult, although it cannot be overemphasized that it is possible to produce the neural stem cell of a mammalian embryo's iris color matter epithelial cell origin.

[0047]

The iris color matter epithelial cell isolation process of S1 just isolates iris color matter epithelial cells, and is not limited in particular for the concrete technique. What is necessary is just to isolate iris color matter epithelial cells from the iris organization which extracted and extracted the iris organization from the eyeball of mammalian general conventionally using a publicly known technique. It is preferred to use the method of a statement for said literature (5) as a method of extracting an iris organization from the eyeball of mammalian.

[0048]

The alternative cultivation process of S2 cultures selectively only the iris color matter epithelial cells isolated from the eyeball of mammalian, and is not limited in particular for the concrete technique. What is necessary is to culture selectively general conventionally only the iris color matter epithelial cells isolated from the eyeball of mammalian using a publicly known technique. [0049]

To the above-mentioned alternative cultivation process (S2) here as the process 6 (a process is hereafter abbreviated to P), The cell dissociation stage for dissociating into each cell from the state where the iris color matter epithelial cells which isolated in the above-mentioned iris color matter epithelial cell isolation process (S1) are condensed, and the cell culture stage of culturing selectively only the iris color matter epithelial cells which isolated as P7 are included. [0050]

Hereafter, each stages P6 and P7 of the above-mentioned alternative cultivation process (S2) are explained in detail. First, the above-mentioned cell dissociation stage of P6 just dissociates the sheet shaped cell of the iris color matter epithelium which isolated into each cell, and is not limited in particular for the concrete technique. What is necessary is just to dissociate the sheet shaped cell of the iris color matter epithelium which isolated into each cell general conventionally

using a publicly known technique.

[0051]

For example, the above-mentioned cell dissociation stage of P6 dissociates the sheet shaped cell of the iris color matter epithelium which isolated into each cell using a commercial trypsin solution. For example, the above-mentioned cell dissociation stage of P6 can also dissociate the sheet shaped cell of the iris color matter epithelium which isolated into each cell by pipetting operation using a commercial micropipette, without using the above-mentioned trypsin solution. [0052]

In particular the reagent and instrument that are used for the above-mentioned cell dissociation stage of P6 are not limited, and the conventionally publicly known reagent and instrument which can be dissociated into each cell from the state where the iris color matter epithelial cells which isolated are condensed can be used for them.

[0053]

The cell culture stage of P7 cultures only the iris color matter epithelial cells which isolated selectively, and is not limited in particular for the concrete technique. What is necessary is to culture only the iris color matter epithelial cells which isolated selectively general conventionally using a publicly known technique. Only the iris color matter epithelial cells preferably isolated from the eyeball of mammalian in Science 1992:225;1707–1710 (literature (6)) using the neurosphere method (floating condensation soul cultivation) of a statement are cultured selectively.

[0054]

For example, what added N2 commercial supplement to the commercial serum free medium is used for the above-mentioned cell culture stage of P7 as culture medium for floating condensation soul culture. The above-mentioned iris color matter epithelial cells which dissociated in the above-mentioned cell dissociation stage of P6 are cultured adding rotation in the culture medium for the above-mentioned floating condensation soul culture using a commercial shaker. The condensation soul which was dramatically similar by this with the condensation soul (sphere) which a brain and the neural stem cell of spine origin form and which is shown in drawing 2 can be acquired.

[0055]

In particular the culture medium and reagent that are used for the above-mentioned cell culture stage of P7 are not limited, and the conventionally publicly known culture medium and reagent which can acquire the condensation soul (sphere) which a brain and the neural stem cell of spine origin form, and a dramatically similar condensation soul can be used for them.

[0056]

The condensation soul of the above-mentioned iris color matter epithelium origin can derive the differentiation to a nerve cell by cultivating in the culture medium which added the blood serum and the publicly known growth factor conventionally so that it may mention later. The condensation soul of the above-mentioned iris color matter epithelium origin specializes to a nerve cell also by transplanting in the living body so that it may mention later. Therefore, the cell of the above-mentioned such comparatively undifferentiated iris color matter epithelium origin of a state is called the neural stem cell of the iris color matter epithelial cell origin of mammalian. [0057]

The production method of the neural stem cell of this embodiment is a method in which the above-mentioned iris color matter epithelial cells are isolated from the eyeball of mammalian according to the iris organization extraction process of extracting an iris organization, and the iris color matter epithelium partition process which separates an iris color matter epithelium from the above-mentioned iris organization which extracted. The production method of the neural stem cell concerning this invention is not limited to this, and other processes may be included. [0058]

Namely, the production method of the neural stem cell of this embodiment, As shown in <u>drawing</u> 1, an iris color matter epithelial cell isolation process (S1) and an alternative cultivation process (S2) are included at least, and the iris organization extraction process (P1) and iris color matter epithelium partition process (P2) which are mentioned later are further included in the above-

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mentioned iris color matter epithelial cell isolation process (S1). The production method of the neural stem cell concerning this invention is not limited to this, and other processes may be included.

[0059]

The above-mentioned iris organization extraction process (P1) just extracts an iris organization from the eyeball of mammalian, and is not limited in particular for the concrete technique. What is necessary is just to extract an iris organization from the eyeball of mammalian general conventionally using a publicly known technique. What is necessary is preferably, just to extract an iris organization from the eyeball of mammalian in said literature (5) using the method of a statement.

[0060]

As shown in <u>drawing 1</u>, here the above-mentioned iris organization extraction process (P1) as P3, The iris organization recovery stage which the iris organization which did enzyme treatment of the enzyme treatment stage which carries out enzyme treatment of the iris organization which excised the iris organization excision stage which excises only an iris organization from the eyeball of mammalian as P4 as P5 is made to recover is included. The production method of the neural stem cell concerning this invention is not limited to this, and other processes may be included.

[0061]

Hereafter, each stages P3-P5 of the above-mentioned iris organization extraction process (P1) are explained in detail. First, the above-mentioned iris organization excision stage of P3 excises only an iris organization from the eyeball of mammalian, and is not limited in particular for the concrete technique. What is necessary is to excise only an iris organization from the eyeball of mammalian general conventionally using a publicly known technique.

[0062]

For example, the above-mentioned iris organization excision stage of P3 excises only an iris organization from the eyeball of mammalian using commercial micro scissors.

[0063]

The above-mentioned enzyme treatment stage of P4 carries out enzyme treatment of the iris organization, in order to make an iris color matter epithelium easy to separate from an iris organization, and it is not limited in particular for the concrete technique. What is necessary is just to carry out enzyme treatment of the iris organization general conventionally, using a publicly known technique, in order to make an iris color matter epithelium easy to separate from an iris organization.

[0064]

For example, after making the above-mentioned enzyme treatment stage of P4 react for 15 to 40 minutes in the dispase solution containing dispase of marketing of an iris organization, It is made to react for 20 to 30 minutes in the EDTA solution containing commercial EDTA (ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid: ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid). In particular the enzyme and reagent that are used for the above-mentioned enzyme treatment stage of P4 are not limited, and the conventionally publicly known enzyme and reagent which can process an iris organization so that an iris color matter epithelium may be made easy to separate from an iris organization can be used for them.

[0065]

The iris organization enfeebled by enzyme treatment is recovered, and the above-mentioned iris organization recovery stage of P5 is not limited in particular for the concrete technique. What is necessary is just to recover the iris organization enfeebled by enzyme treatment general conventionally using a publicly known technique.

[0066]

For example, the above-mentioned iris organization recovery stage of P5 is made to react for 30 to 60 minutes, and an iris organization is made to recover it after the reaction of the above-mentioned enzyme treatment stage in the culture medium containing the fetal calf serum of marketing of an iris organization. In particular the culture medium and reagent containing the blood serum used for the above-mentioned iris organization recovery stage of P5 are not limited,

and the culture medium and reagent which contain conventionally the publicly known blood serum which can be recovered by the enfeebled iris organization can be used for them. [0067]

Especially in the above-mentioned iris organization extraction process (P1), the reaction time of the above-mentioned enzyme treatment stage of P4 and the above-mentioned iris organization recovery stage of P5 is important. The reaction time by the above-mentioned dispase solution of the above-mentioned iris organization of the above-mentioned enzyme treatment stage of P4, And an iris color matter epithelium is separable from the eyeball of not only a fowl but a mouse, Latt, and Homo sapiens by adjusting the reaction time by the above-mentioned EDTA solution, and the reaction time by the culture medium containing the above-mentioned fetal calf serum of the above-mentioned iris organization recovery stage of P5.

[0068]

When carrying out the above-mentioned iris color matter epithelium isolation from the eyeball of a mouse. The above-mentioned iris organization is made to react for 15 to 40 minutes with the dispase solution of 25-37 ** above-mentioned 1000 U/mL, It is preferred to make it react for 16 to 40 minutes with the above-mentioned 0.05 to 0.1%EDTA solution under a room temperature, and to make it react for 30 to 120 minutes with the culture medium which contains fetal calf serum 8 to 10%.

[0069]

When carrying out the above-mentioned iris color matter epithelium isolation from the eyeball of the mouse on after—the—birth the 10th, Especially the thing that make the above-mentioned iris organization react for 16 minutes with the dispase solution of 37 ** above-mentioned 1000 U/mL, and you make it react for 20 minutes with the above-mentioned 0.05%EDTA solution under a room temperature, and is made to react for 90 minutes with the culture medium which contains fetal calf serum 8% is preferred.

[0070]

When carrying out the above-mentioned iris color matter epithelium isolation from the eyeball of the mouse on after-the-birth the 12th, Especially the thing that make the above-mentioned iris organization react for 20 minutes with the dispase solution of 37 ** above-mentioned 1000 U/mL, and you make it react for 25 minutes with the above-mentioned 0.05%EDTA solution under a room temperature, and is made to react for 60 minutes with the culture medium which contains fetal calf serum 8% is preferred.

[0071]

When carrying out the above-mentioned iris color matter epithelium isolation from the eyeball of the mouse for two months after the birth, Especially the thing that make the above-mentioned iris organization react for 30 minutes with the dispase solution of 37 ** above-mentioned 1000 U/mL, and you make it react for 40 minutes with the above-mentioned 0.05%EDTA solution under a room temperature, and is made to react for 30 minutes with the culture medium which contains fetal calf serum 8% is preferred.

[0072]

When carrying out the above-mentioned iris color matter epithelium isolation from the eyeball of a rat, It is preferred to make the above-mentioned iris organization react for 15 to 40 minutes with the dispase solution of 37 ** above-mentioned 1000 U/mL, to make it react for 15 to 60 minutes with the above-mentioned 0.05%EDTA solution under a room temperature, and to make it react for 30 to 120 minutes with the culture medium which contains fetal calf serum 8 to 10%. [0073]

When carrying out the above-mentioned iris color matter epithelium isolation from the Homo sapiens embryo's eyeball, The above-mentioned iris organization is made to react for 15 to 30 minutes with the dispase solution of the 25-37 ** above 500 - 1000 U/mL, It is preferred to make it react for 15 to 40 minutes with the above-mentioned 0.05 to 0.1%EDTA solution under a room temperature, and to make it react for 10 to 60 minutes with the culture medium which contains fetal calf serum 8 to 10%.

[0074]

When carrying out the above-mentioned iris color matter epithelium isolation from the eyeball of

the Homo sapiens embryo after the birth [19 weeks of], Especially the thing that make the above-mentioned iris organization react for 30 minutes with the dispase solution of 37 ** above-mentioned 1000 U/mL, and you make it react for 30 minutes with the above-mentioned 0.05% EDTA solution under a room temperature, and is made to react for 60 minutes with the culture medium which contains fetal calf serum 8% is preferred.
[0075]

What is necessary is just to use what added a proper quantity of commercial fetal calf sera, using the product "DMEM culture medium" made by invitrogen for example as the abovementioned culture medium.

[0076]

From the iris organization built from the iris substrate extracted at the above-mentioned iris organization extraction process (P1), and an iris color matter epithelium, the above-mentioned iris color matter epithelium partition process of P2 separates only an iris color matter epithelium, and is not limited in particular for the concrete technique. What is necessary is to separate only an iris color matter epithelium from an iris organization general conventionally using a publicly known technique.

[0077]

For example, the above-mentioned iris color matter epithelium partition process of P2 separates an iris substrate and an iris color matter epithelium by stripping and collecting only iris color matter epithelia from the above-mentioned iris organization which made it recover using commercial micro tweezers.

[0078]

The neural stem cell of this embodiment is obtained by the production method of the neural stem cell of the iris color matter epithelial cell origin of the above-mentioned mammalian. [0079]

[Embodiment 2]

It will be as follows if other embodiments of this invention are described based on <u>drawing 3</u>. This invention is not limited to this. About the substantially same matter as the matter of explanation explained by Embodiment 1 for convenience, the explanation is omitted suitably. [0080]

The production method of the neural cell of this embodiment is provided with the following. The neural stem cell production process which produces a neural stem cell by culturing selectively the iris color matter epithelial cells isolated from the eyeball of mammalian with a floating condensation soul culturing method.

The adhesion cultivation process which cultures the neural stem cell obtained by the above-mentioned neural stem cell production process by adhesion cultivation.

[0081]

Namely, the production method of the neural cell of this embodiment, As shown in <u>drawing 3</u>, the neural stem cell production process (S3) including the above-mentioned iris color matter epithelial cell isolation process (S1) and the above-mentioned alternative cultivation process (S2) and the adhesion cultivation process (S4) which cultures a neural stem cell by adhesion cultivation are included at least. The production method of the neural cell concerning this invention is not limited to this, and other processes may be included.

[0082]

The above-mentioned neural stem cell production process (S3) is performed like the production method of the neural stem cell explained by said Embodiment 1. [0083]

The above-mentioned neural cell shall contain neurone (nerve cell) and the neuroglia which is nonnervous cells. Although the above-mentioned neuroglia does not show the active electrical response which is one of the features of neurone, it is a cell which bears various functions to neurone, such as supplying support of neurone, or a nutrition to neurone. The above-mentioned neuroglia is classified into four kinds, astroglia (astrocyte), microglia (microglia cell), oligodendroglia (oligodendrocyte), and a Schwann cell, according to the function and feature in a

vertebrate. The above-mentioned neuroglia answers to a growth factor. [0084]

What is necessary is for the adhesion cultivation process of S4 just to be able to carry out differentiation inducing of the neural stem cell of the iris color matter epithelial cell origin of the mammalian obtained in the neural stem cell production process (S3) to a neural cell, and it is not limited in particular for the concrete technique. What is necessary is just to carry out differentiation inducing of the neural stem cell to a neural cell general conventionally using a publicly known technique. For example, the adhesion cultivation process of S4 may use the adhesion cultivation of a statement for the above—mentioned literature (6). [0085]

The above-mentioned adhesion cultivation process of S4 should just perform adhesion culture as follows, for example.

[0086]

As a culture medium for adhesion culture, what added the growth factor with conventionally publicly known marketing is used for the DMEM culture medium of marketing containing fetal calf serum. Generally, in order to lose the stimulus by a growth factor in the differentiation-inducing system of a neural stem cell, the culture medium of entering [which does not add a growth factor to culture medium] a blood serum is used, but as a culture medium for adhesion culture used for the production method of the neural cell of this embodiment, the culture medium of entering [which added the publicly known growth factor conventionally] a blood serum is used. [0087]

The neural stem cell of the iris color matter epithelial cell origin of the mammalian obtained in the neural stem cell production process (S3) is moved to the culture dish for commercial adhesion culture using a commercial micropipette. The neural stem cell of the iris color matter epithelial cell origin of the above-mentioned mammalian which moved to the culture dish for the above-mentioned adhesion culture is settled and cultured in a commercial CO'2 incubation device using the culture medium for the above-mentioned adhesion culture. 5% of carbon dioxide gas concentration is desirable.

[8800]

By this, differentiation inducing of the neural stem cell of the iris color matter epithelial cell origin of the above-mentioned mammalian can be carried out to a neural cell. [0089]

In the culture medium for the above-mentioned adhesion culture, FGF (fibroblast growth factor: fibroblast growth factor) 10 - 40 ng/mL, In EGF (epidermal growth factor: epidermal growth factor), 0.1-2microM addition does not limit 10 - 40 ng/mL and RA (retinoic acid: vitamin A) to in particular this, although carrying out is preferred. [0090]

Although the culture dish in which the coat of the extracellular-matrix ingredients, such as laminin (laminin) and the collagen (collagen), was carried out, or the culture dish of a poly D lysine coat is preferred as a culture dish for the above-mentioned adhesion culture, it is not limited to in particular this.

[0091]

The culture medium and culture dish which are used for the above-mentioned adhesion cultivation process of S4, and the factor in particular to add are not limited, and the conventionally publicly known culture medium which can carry out differentiation inducing of the neural stem cell of the iris color matter epithelial cell origin of the above-mentioned mammalian to a neural cell, a culture dish, and a factor can be used for them.

As a growth factor added here to the culture medium used for the above-mentioned adhesion cultivation process of S4, For example, FGF (fibroblast growth factor: fibroblast growth factor), EGF (epidermal growth factor: epidermal growth factor), BDNF (brain derived nutritional factor: brain-derived neurotrophic factor), LIF (leukemia inhibitory factor: leukemia inhibitory factor), CNTF (ciliary-ganglion neurotrophic factor), NT-3 (three: neurotrophin-neuro fatty tuna fin 3), NT-4 (four: neurotrophin-neuro fatty tuna fin 4), RA (retinoic acid: vitamin A), PDGF (platelet

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derived growth factor: platelet derived growth factor), and T3 (triiodothyronine: triiodothyronine solution) are mentioned.

[0093]

The culture medium for adhesion culture in which the above-mentioned adhesion cultivation process of S4 contained the above conventionally publicly known growth factors and a blood serum, And when an extracellular-matrix ingredient cultures the neural stem cell of the iris color matter epithelial cell origin of the above-mentioned mammalian in adhesion cultivation using the culture dish by which the coat was carried out, the differentiation to the neural cell of the neural stem cell of the iris color matter epithelial cell origin of the above-mentioned mammalian can be urged.

[0094]

It is possible to produce various nerve cell kinds from the neural stem cell of the iris color matter epithelial cell origin of the above-mentioned mammalian by changing the combination of the factor added to the culture medium for adhesion culture, and the combination of the extracellular-matrix ingredient which carries out the coat of the culture dish. [0095]

The production method of the neural cell of this embodiment is a method in which the above-mentioned iris color matter epithelial cells are isolated from the eyeball of mammalian by the iris organization extraction stage of extracting an iris organization, and the iris color matter epithelium separation stage of separating an iris color matter epithelium from the above-mentioned iris organization which extracted. The production method of the neural cell concerning this invention is not limited to this, and other processes may be included.

[0096]

The above-mentioned iris organization extraction stage and the above-mentioned iris color matter epithelium separation stage are substantially [as the iris organization extraction process (P1) and iris color matter epithelium partition process (P2) which were explained by said Embodiment 1, respectively] the same.

[0097]

The production method of the neural cell of this embodiment is provided with the following. The neural stem cell production process which produces a neural stem cell by culturing selectively the iris color matter epithelial cells isolated from the eyeball of mammalian with a floating condensation soul culturing method.

A neural stem cell part chemically-modified [which makes the neural stem cell obtained by the above-mentioned neural stem cell production process specialize in a neural cell] degree. The production method of the neural cell concerning this invention is not limited to this, and other processes may be included.

[0098]

What is necessary is for the neural stem cell part chemically-modified [above-mentioned] degree just to be able to carry out differentiation inducing of the neural stem cell of the iris color matter epithelial cell origin of mammalian to a neural cell, and it is not limited in particular for the concrete technique. What is necessary is just to carry out differentiation inducing of the neural stem cell to a neural cell general conventionally using a publicly known technique. For example, the neural stem cell of the iris color matter epithelial cell origin of the above-mentioned mammalian specializes in a neural cell also by transplanting a neural stem cell with a publicly known implanting method conventionally in the living body. [0099]

The neural stem cell of the iris color matter epithelial cell origin of the above-mentioned mammalian specializes like a statement in the above-mentioned literature (1) to the specific nerve cell which was adapted for environment by transplanting the neural stem cell of the iris color matter epithelial cell origin of the above-mentioned mammalian in the living body. [0100]

Therefore, the above-mentioned adhesion cultivation process (S4) of this embodiment is not performed, by what (a neural stem cell transplantation process — not shown) the neural stem cell of the iris color matter epithelial cell origin of the above-mentioned mammalian obtained in

the above-mentioned neural stem cell production process (S3) is transplanted for in the living body of mammalian. The neural stem cell of the iris color matter epithelial cell origin of the above-mentioned mammalian may be made to specialize in a neural cell.

[0101]

That is, whichever of the above-mentioned adhesion cultivation process (S4) or the above-mentioned neural stem cell transplantation process may be used for a neural stem cell part chemically-modified [above-mentioned] degree. It is also possible to combine the above-mentioned neural stem cell transplantation process for the above-mentioned adhesion cultivation process (S4), and what is necessary is just to perform the above-mentioned neural stem cell transplantation process after the above-mentioned adhesion cultivation process (S4) in this case.

[0102]

It is not limited and, especially as for the method used for a neural stem cell part chemically—modified [above-mentioned] degree, the conventionally publicly known method of carrying out differentiation inducing of the neural stem cell of the iris color matter epithelial cell origin of the above-mentioned mammalian to a neural cell can be used.

[0103]

The neural cell of this embodiment is obtained by the above-mentioned neural cell production method.

[0104]

This invention is not what is limited to each embodiment mentioned above, It cannot be overemphasized that it is contained in the technical scope of this invention also about the embodiment obtained by embodiment which various change is possible and is different in the range shown in the claim combining suitably the technical means indicated, respectively. [0105]

[Example]

Hereafter, although this invention is more concretely explained based on an example and <u>drawing 2</u>, <u>drawing 4</u>, and <u>drawing 5</u>, this invention is not limited to this.

[0106]

(Isolation of iris color matter epithelial cells)

The mouse for two months 12 days mammalian, ten days after the birth, and after the birth and after the birth shown below (from a "C57BL6" SLC company or Clare to acquisition), Iris color matter epithelial cells were extracted from the rat for two months after—the—birth 9–12 day after the birth [3 weeks old] and after the birth (from a "DA rat" SLC company to acquisition), and the Homo sapiens embryo (finishing [director / Kurashiki adult disease center / offer and this center Ethics Committee recognition]) after the birth [19 weeks of]. [0107]

Only the iris organization was excised from the eyeball of the above-mentioned mammalian using commercial micro scissors. This iris organization in 37 ** dispase solution (made by "dispase (dispase)" joint Japanese sake company) 1000 U/mL, After making it react for 15 to 40 minutes, it was made to react for 20 to 30 minutes in a 0.05%EDTA (ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid: ethylenediaminetetraacetic acid) solution under a room temperature. After the reaction, the above-mentioned iris organization was made to react for 30 to 60 minutes in the culture medium (made by "DMEM culture-medium" invitrogen) which contains fetal calf serum 8%, and the above-mentioned iris organization was recovered. Then, the iris substrate and the iris color matter epithelium were separated by stripping and collecting only iris color matter epithelia from the above-mentioned iris organization using commercial micro tweezers.

[0108]

Made the above-mentioned iris organization react for 16 minutes with the dispase solution of 37 ** above-mentioned 1000 U/mL, and it was made to react for 20 minutes with the above-mentioned 0.05%EDTA solution under a room temperature, and was made to react for 90 minutes in the mouse on after-the-birth the 10th with the culture medium which contains fetal calf serum 8%.

[0109]

Made the above-mentioned iris organization react for 20 minutes with the dispase solution of 37 ** above-mentioned 1000 U/mL, and it was made to react for 25 minutes with the above-mentioned 0.05%EDTA solution under a room temperature, and was made to react for 60 minutes in the mouse on after—the-birth the 12th with the culture medium which contains fetal calf serum 8%.

[0110]

Made the above-mentioned iris organization react for 30 minutes with the dispase solution of 37 ** above-mentioned 1000 U/mL, and it was made to react for 40 minutes with the above-mentioned 0.05%EDTA solution under a room temperature, and was made to react for 30 minutes in the mouse for two months after the birth with the culture medium which contains fetal calf serum 8%.

[0111]

The above-mentioned iris organization is made to react for 20 minutes with the dispase solution of above-mentioned 1000 U/mL in the rat on after-the-birth the 11th, It was made to react for 25 minutes with the above-mentioned 0.05%EDTA solution, and was made to react for 90 minutes with the culture medium (made by "DMEM culture-medium" invitrogen) which contains fetal calf serum 8%.

[0112]

Made the above-mentioned iris organization react for 30 minutes with the dispase solution of 37 ** above-mentioned 1000 U/mL, and it was made to react for 30 minutes with the above-mentioned 0.05%EDTA solution under a room temperature, and was made to react for 60 minutes in the Homo sapiens embryo after the birth [19 weeks of] with the culture medium which contains fetal calf serum 8%.

[0113]

(Floating condensation soul cultivation)

The iris color matter epithelial tissue which dissociated [above-mentioned] dissociated into the cell using the commercial trypsin solution. Then, the this iris color matter epithelial cells which dissociated were selectively cultured by the neurosphere method (floating condensation soul cultivation) of the statement in the above-mentioned literature (6). 1 / amount ************* of 100 was used for the culture medium of floating condensation soul culture for N2 supplement made from invitrogen at the serum free medium (made by "DMEM/F12 culture-medium" invitrogen). The condensation soul shown in the condensation soul (sphere) which a brain or the neural stem cell of spine origin forms, and dramatically similar drawing 2 was acquired by culturing the above-mentioned iris color matter epithelial cells which carried out trypsinization, adding rotation in the above-mentioned floating condensation soul culture medium using a commercial shaker.

[0114]

(Differentiation inducing to the nerve cell by adhesion culture of a neural stem cell) Adhesion culture was performed for the iris type pigment-epithelium cell which isolated from the eyeball of the mouse for two months 12 days after the birth and after the birth as follows after the above-mentioned floating condensation soul culture on after-the-birth the 10th. [0115]

To the DMEM culture medium made from invitrogen included 8%, fetal calf serum. What carried out 30 ng/mL addition of 30 ng/mL and EGF (epidermal growth factor: epidermal growth factor) for FGF-2 (fibroblast growth factor-2: fibroblast growth factor-2) was used as a culture medium for adhesion culture.

[0116]

The neural stem cell of the iris color matter epithelial cell origin of the above-mentioned mouse obtained by the above-mentioned floating condensation soul cultivation was moved to the culture dish for commercial adhesion culture using the commercial micropipette. That in which the coat is carried out by the laminin was used for the culture dish for adhesion culture. The neural stem cell of the iris color matter epithelial cell origin of the above-mentioned mouse which moved to the culture dish for the above-mentioned adhesion culture was settled and cultured in the commercial CO'2 incubation device using the culture medium for the above-

mentioned adhesion culture. Carbon dioxide gas concentration was made into 5%. By the above-mentioned adhesion culture, the cell which produces the marker of neurone or a neuroglia was detected.

[0117]

[0118]

Adhesion culture was performed for the iris type pigment-epithelium cell which isolated from the eyeball of the Homo sapiens embryo after the birth [19 weeks of] as follows after the abovementioned floating condensation soul culture.

What did 1microM addition of RA (retinoic acid: vitamin A) was used for the DMEM culture medium made from invitrogen which contains fetal calf serum 8% as a culture medium for adhesion culture. The culture dish made from Biocoot in which the coat is carried out by laminin (laminin) was used for the culture dish for adhesion culture. The neural stem cell of the iris color matter epithelial cell origin of the above-mentioned Homo sapiens embryo who moved to the culture dish for the above-mentioned adhesion culture was settled and cultured in the commercial GO'2 incubation device using the culture medium for the above-mentioned adhesion culture. Carbon dioxide gas concentration was made into 5%. As a result of performing adhesion culture on the above conditions, it was not a neural cell about the neural stem cell of the above-mentioned Homo sapiens embryo's iris color matter epithelial cell origin, but differentiation inducing was able to be carried out to the lens cell.

(Differentiation inducing to the nerve cell by the cell transplant of a neural stem cell) The micro glass needle was used and transplanted to the ventricle of the intrauterine embryo of the mouse of day 12 of gestation with the implanting method given [what cultured the iris type pigment-epithelium cell which isolated from the eyeball of the mouse on nine to after-the-birth the 12th by the above-mentioned floating condensation soul cultivation] in ProNAS(1997)127 and 1-11. The number of the transplanted cells is 5000-20000 pieces / brain.

How to use a Dil (made by molecular probe) fluorochrome for the sign of transplanted cells, Two kinds of methods with the method of using the iris color matter epithelial cells of the transformation mouse (it provides from Osaka University and Professor Masaru Okabe) in which the sign of the iris type pigment—epithelium cell was hereditarily carried out by GFP (green fluorescence protein) were used.

[0121]

How to use the fluorochrome DiI is explained below based on <u>drawing 4</u>. [0122]

From the iris organization which extracted the iris organization and extracted from the eyeball of the day [of after the birth / 10th] mouse, iris color matter epithelial cells were isolated and the sign of the iris color matter epithelial cells which isolated was carried out by the fluorochrome Dil. The micro glass needle was used for the ventricle of the intrauterine embryo of the mouse of day 12 of gestation, and the iris color matter epithelial cells which carried out the sign by the fluorochrome Dil were transplanted to it.

[0123]

The brain of the above-mentioned mouse embryo who transplanted the iris color matter epithelial cells which carried out the sign by the fluorochrome DiI seven days after the above-mentioned transplantation is extracted, in the paraformaldehyde (PFA:paraformaldehyde) solution diluted with the phosphate buffer solution (PBS) to 4%, the extracted brain was fixed at 4 ** for 4 hours. Then, the fixed brain was placed at 4 ** overnight into the phosphate buffer solution which contained shook sirloin (sucrose) 20%.

Next, in order to produce the frozen section of the fixed brain and to dye a nucleus, the brain slice was made to react for 30 minutes in the DAPI diluent which diluted DAPI made from sigma (4', 6-diamidino-2-phenylindole) to 1microg/mL. The goat blood serum (normal goat serum) solution was used for the solution which dilutes above DAPI 10% in order to perform blocking for preventing adsorption of a nonspecific antibody simultaneously. This performed DAPI stain and

blocking simultaneously.

[0125]

Next, the tubulin antibody (made by "tubulinJ" BAbCO) which is a neural marker which recognizes the tubulin of a nerve cell was used as a primary antibody. The brain slice was made to react at a night or 37 ** at 4 ** for 1 hour in the antibody dilute solution which diluted the above-mentioned tubulin antibody to 1/500. Then, it washed for 5 minutes by PBS. This washing operation was performed 3 times.

[0126]

anti-mouse IgG-Alexa488 antibody made from molecular probe was used for the second antibody. The brain slice was made to react at a room temperature for 1 hour in the antibody dilute solution which diluted the above-mentioned second antibody. Then, it washed for 5 minutes by PBS. This washing operation was performed 3 times.

Then, the result of having observed the brain slice using the fluorescence microscope is shown in drawing 5 (a) - drawing 5 (d).

[0128]

In <u>drawing 5</u> (a), the iris color matter epithelial cells which carried out the sign are dyed by the fluorochrome DiI transplanted in a mouse embryo's brain, and it can be checked that the iris color matter epithelial cells isolated from the mouse eyeball are transplanted in a mouse embryo's brain. The iris color matter epithelial cells in which the gray portion in a figure carried out the sign by the fluorochrome DiI are shown.

[0129]

In drawing 5 (b), it can check that the above-mentioned iris color matter epithelial cells which are the fluorescence double-stain images of the iris color matter epithelial cells and nucleus which carried out the sign, and were transplanted in DiI shown in drawing 5 (a) are the somata which have a nucleus. The black portion in a figure shows the image of the iris color matter epithelial cells which carried out the sign by the fluorochrome DiI, and the image of the cell which has a nucleus the gray portion has been recognized to be by the DAPI antibody is shown. [0130]

<u>Drawing 5</u> (c) strong-expands some same sections as <u>drawing 5</u> (a), and shows the iris color matter epithelial cells which carried out the sign in Dil. The iris color matter epithelial cells in which the gray portion in a figure carried out the sign by the fluorochrome Dil are shown. [0131]

<u>Drawing 5</u> (d) shows the image which observed the same place as <u>drawing 5</u> (c) on the wavelength for observing a tubulin antibody, and can check that the iris color matter epithelial cells which carried out the sign by the fluorochrome Dil transplanted in a mouse embryo's brain have specialized in the neural cell. The black portion in a figure shows the image of the cell recognized by the tubulin antibody.

[0132]

The iris type pigment-epithelium cell performed the method of using the iris color matter epithelial cells of the commercial transformation mouse by which the sign was carried out hereditarily, like the method of using the above-mentioned fluorochrome DiI, except for the point which does not carry out the sign of the iris color matter epithelial cells which isolated by the fluorochrome DiI by GFP.

[0133]

[Effect of the Invention]

The neural stem cell production method of this invention is a method of culturing selectively the iris color matter epithelial cells isolated from the eyeball of mammalian with a floating condensation soul culturing method as mentioned above.

[0134]

The neural stem cell production method of this invention is a method in which the above—mentioned iris color matter epithelial cells are isolated from the eyeball of mammalian according to the iris organization extraction process of extracting an iris organization, and the iris color matter epithelium partition process which separates an iris color matter epithelium from the

above-mentioned iris organization which extracted in the production method of the above-mentioned neural stem cell.

[0135]

Therefore, the neural stem cell which serves as a source of transplantation for reproducing a central nervous system from the iris color matter epithelial cells of mammalian is producible. [0136]

The neural stem cell of this invention is obtained by the production method of the abovementioned neural stem cell,

[0137]

So, the neural stem cell using a production method of the neural stem cell of the iris color matter epithelial cell origin of the mammalian of this invention, and a method for the same, The effect that the source of transplanted cells which can solve the problem of the immunological rejection by the cell transplant in central nervous system reproduction, an ethical problem, and which imbalanced problem of the demand of the sources of transplanted cells and supply can be provided is done so.

[0138]

The neural stem cell production process which produces a neural stem cell when the production method of the neural cell of this invention cultures selectively the iris color matter epithelial cells isolated from the eyeball of mammalian with a floating condensation soul culturing method as mentioned above, it is a method containing a neural stem cell part chemically-modified [which makes the neural stem cell obtained by the above-mentioned neural stem cell production process specialize in a neural cell] degree.
[0139]

The neural stem cell production process which produces a neural stem cell when the neural cell production method of this invention cultures selectively the iris color matter epithelial cells isolated from the eyeball of mammalian with a floating condensation soul culturing method as mentioned above, It is a method including the adhesion cultivation process which cultures the neural stem cell obtained by the above-mentioned neural stem cell production process by adhesion cultivation.

[0140]

The neural cell production method of this invention is a method in which the above-mentioned iris color matter epithelial cells are isolated from the eyeball of mammalian by the iris organization extraction stage of extracting an iris organization, and the iris color matter epithelium separation stage of separating an iris color matter epithelium from the above-mentioned iris organization which extracted in the production method of the above-mentioned neural cell.

[0141]

The neural cell of this invention is obtained by the production method of the above-mentioned neural cell.

[0142]

So, the effect that the neural cell obtained by production method of the neural cell which can carry out differentiation inducing of the neural stem cell of the iris color matter epithelial cell origin of the above-mentioned mammalian to a neural cell, and a method for the same can be provided is done.

[0143]

Therefore, the neural cell obtained by production method of the neural stem cell obtained by production method of the neural stem cell of this invention, and a method for the same, and a neural cell, and a method for the same, A possibility of bringing about a contribution important for the therapeutic method for the central-nerves disease which the effective therapeutic method has not established now, or retina diseases of the nervous system is high.

[Brief Description of the Drawings]

[Drawing 1] It is outline process drawing showing an example of the production method of the neural stem cell concerning this invention.

[Drawing 2]It is a photograph substituted for drawing in which the condensation soul (sphere) of

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the iris color matter epithelial cell origin of a mouse is shown.

[Drawing 3] It is outline process drawing showing an example of the production method of the neural cell concerning this invention.

[Drawing 4]It is an explanatory view showing the procedure in the case of transplanting the neural stem cell of the mouse iris color matter epithelial cell origin to a mouse embryo brain. [Drawing 5](a) is a photograph substituted for drawing in which the result of having observed the iris color matter epithelial cells which carried out the sign by the fluorochrome DiI transplanted in a mouse embryo's brain with the fluorescence microscope is shown, (b) is a photograph substituted for drawing in which the fluorescence double-stain image of the iris color matter epithelial cells which carried out the sign by the fluorochrome DiI shown in (a), and the soma which has a nucleus is shown, It is a photograph substituted for drawing in which the result of having observed the iris color matter epithelial cells which (c) strong-expanded some same sections as (a), and carried out the sign by the fluorochrome DiI with the fluorescence microscope is shown, (d) is a photograph substituted for drawing in which the result of having observed the same brain slice as (c) with the fluorescence microscope on the wavelength for observing a tubulin antibody is shown.

[Translation done.]

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DESCRIPTION OF DRAWINGS

[Brief Description of the Drawings]

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[Drawing 2]It is a photograph substituted for drawing in which the condensation soul (sphere) of the iris color matter epithelial cell origin of a mouse is shown.

[Drawing 3] It is outline process drawing showing an example of the production method of the neural cell concerning this invention.

[Drawing 4]It is an explanatory view showing the procedure in the case of transplanting the neural stem cell of the mouse iris color matter epithelial cell origin to a mouse embryo brain. [Drawing 5](a) is a photograph substituted for drawing in which the result of having observed the iris color matter epithelial cells which carried out the sign by the fluorochrome DiI transplanted in a mouse embryo's brain with the fluorescence microscope is shown, (b) is a photograph substituted for drawing in which the fluorescence double—stain image of the iris color matter epithelial cells which carried out the sign by the fluorochrome DiI shown in (a), and the soma which has a nucleus is shown, It is a photograph substituted for drawing in which the result of having observed the iris color matter epithelial cells which (c) strong—expanded some same sections as (a), and carried out the sign by the fluorochrome DiI with the fluorescence microscope is shown, (d) is a photograph substituted for drawing in which the result of having observed the same brain slice as (c) with the fluorescence microscope on the wavelength for observing a tubulin antibody is shown.

[Translation done.]

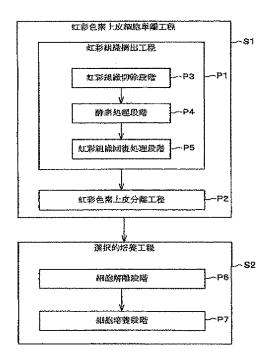
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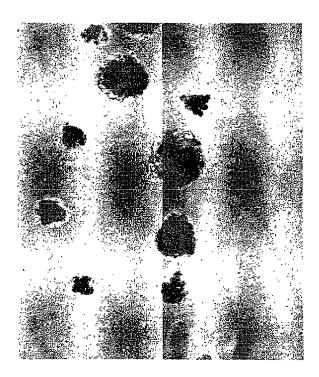
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DRAWINGS

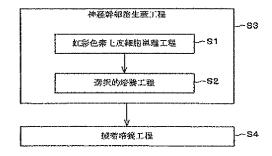
[Drawing 1]



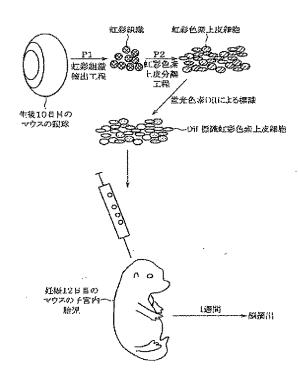
[Drawing 2]



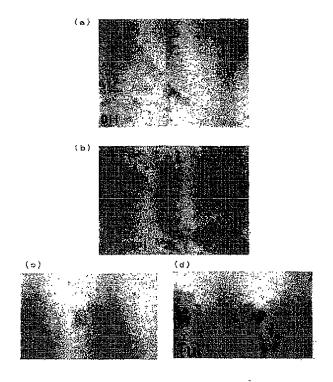
[Drawing 3]



[Drawing 4]



[Drawing 5]



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(73) 特許権者 503360115

独立行政法人科学技術振興機構 埼玉県川口市本町4丁目1番8号

|(74)代理人 110000338

特許業務法人原謙三国際特許事務所

(74) 代理人 100080034

弁理士 原 謙三 (72) 発明者

小阪 美津子

岡山県岡山市伊島町2-5-26 レジデ

ンス伊島101

審査官 飯室 里美

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(54) 【発明の名称】哺乳動物の虹彩色素上皮細胞由来の神経幹細胞の生産方法、および該神経幹細胞から神経系細胞 を生産する方法

(57)【特許請求の範囲】

【請求項1】

哺乳動物の眼球から単離した虹彩色素上皮細胞を浮遊凝集魂培養方法により選択的に培 養することを特徴とする神経幹細胞の生産方法。

【請求項2】

前記虹彩色素上皮細胞が、非ヒト哺乳動物の眼球から虹彩組織を摘出する虹彩組織摘出 工程と、

摘出した上記虹彩組織から虹彩色素上皮を分離する虹彩色素上皮分離工程とにより単離 されることを特徴とする請求項1に記載の神経幹細胞の生産方法。

【請求項3】

前記哺乳動物は哺乳動物成体である、請求項1または2に記載の神経幹細胞の生産方法

【請求項4】

哺乳動物の眼球から単離した虹彩色素上皮細胞を浮遊凝集魂培養方法により選択的に培 養することにより神経幹細胞を生産する神経幹細胞生産工程と、

上記神経幹細胞生産工程により得られた神経幹細胞を神経系細胞に分化させる神経幹細 胞分化工程とを含むことを特徴とする神経系細胞の生産方法。

【請求項5】

哺乳動物の眼球から単離した虹彩色素上皮細胞を浮遊凝集魂培養方法により選択的に培 養することにより神経幹細胞を生産する神経幹細胞生産工程と、

上記神経幹細胞生産工程により得られた神経幹細胞を接着培養法により培養する接着培養工程とを含むことを特徴とする神経系細胞の生産方法。

【請求項6】

前記虹彩色素上皮細胞が、<u>非ヒト</u>哺乳動物の眼球から虹彩組織を摘出する虹彩組織摘出 段階と、

摘出した上記虹彩組織から虹彩色素上皮を分離する虹彩色素上皮分離段階とにより単離 されることを特徴とする請求項4または5に記載の神経系細胞の生産方法。

【請求項7】

前記哺乳動物は哺乳動物成体である、請求項4ないし6の何れか1項に記載の神経系細胞の生産方法。

【発明の詳細な説明】

[0001]

【発明の属する技術分野】

本発明は、哺乳動物の虹彩色素上皮細胞由来の神経幹細胞の生産方法、およびその方法により得られる神経幹細胞、ならびに該神経幹細胞から神経系細胞を生産する方法、およびその方法により得られる神経系細胞に関するものである。

[0002]

【従来の技術】

近年、脳、脊髄における神経幹細胞の存在が認められ、またES細胞が特定の中枢神経系細胞へ分化することが報告されており、中枢神経系再生医療への期待が高まっている。また、神経幹細胞の分離および選択的培養方法として、neurosphere法(浮遊凝集魂培養法)が確立されている。さらに、上記浮遊凝集魂培養により神経幹細胞が形成するsphere(凝集魂)を接着培養法にて培養することによって、神経幹細胞を神経系細胞に分化誘導する神経幹細胞の分化誘導法も報告されている。

[0003]

また、脳、脊髄由来の神経幹細胞またはES細胞を生体内に移植することにより、該移植した細胞が環境に適応して特異的な神経細胞へと分化することが報告されている(Nature (2001)414,112–117 review(文献(1)))。

[0004]

しかしながら、脳、脊髄由来の神経幹細胞やES細胞の医療への応用を考えた場合には、 細胞移植による免疫拒絶の問題、倫理的問題、移植細胞源の需要と供給のアンバランスな どの多くの問題が生じる。

[0005]

そこで、移植対象となる個体自身に由来する細胞を中枢神経系再生のための移植源として 用いることが可能となれば、自家移植が可能となり上記の問題を解決することができる。 このような中枢神経系再生のための移植源として利用が期待されている細胞としては、眼 球の虹彩色素上皮細胞がある。虹彩色素上皮細胞は、患者本人からその細胞の一部を採取 することが可能である。

[0006]

虹彩色素上皮細胞は、光量に応じて瞳孔を開いたり、狭めたりして網膜に届く光量を調節するための組織である虹彩を構築している細胞のひとつである。上記虹彩色素上皮細胞の発生起源は、網膜色素上皮細胞および毛様体上皮細胞と同様に神経板に由来する。網膜は複数の細胞層から構築されており、上記網膜色素上皮細胞は、網膜の最も外側の細胞層である受容器層を被っている。毛様体上皮は、虹彩と網膜との中間的位置に存在する組織である。

[0007]

有尾両生類の成体イモリの眼においては、上記網膜を構築している複数の細胞層に存在する細胞が、網膜色素上皮細胞の分化転換により完全に再生されることが知られている。また、成体イモリの眼においては、レンズ(水晶体)が再生することも古くから知られている。このイモリの眼におけるレンズの再生は、虹彩色素上皮細胞がレンズ細胞へ分化転換

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することにより成立する。

[0008]

一部の両生類だけではなく魚類、および発生期の鳥類ならびに発生期の哺乳類の網膜色素 上皮細胞についても、これまでに、レンズや神経細胞への分化転換能を有することが試験 管内の培養実験により示されている。

[0009]

例えば、哺乳動物においては、培養下の実験によって、胎児期の限られた時期ではあるものの、その網膜色素上皮細胞は、神経細胞への分化転換能を有することが報告されている (Brain Res.(1995)677:300-310(文献(2)))。しかしながら、上記文献(2)においては、哺乳動物の胎児期の限られた時期以降の時期における網膜色素上皮細胞の神経細胞への分化転換能は否定されている。

[0010]

胎児期においては、発生過程であるために比較的未分化な細胞が各組織に多く存在しており、網膜色素上皮細胞においても胎児期の限られた時期であれば、比較的未分化な細胞が存在している可能性が高い。このように比較的未分化な細胞であれば、神経細胞へ分化誘導することは可能である。

[0011]

しかしながら、哺乳動物成体の各組織において、比較的未分化な細胞が存在していることは稀である。また、哺乳動物成体の網膜色素上皮細胞は、高度に分化した細胞であるために細胞の分離・培養は困難である。このため、哺乳動物の胎児期の限られた時期以降の時期における網膜色素上皮細胞を神経細胞に分化転換させることは困難である。すなわち、現在のところ、哺乳動物成体の網膜色素上皮細胞は、中枢神経系再生のための移植源とすることができない。

[0012]

また、毛様体上皮細胞についての以前の研究においては、哺乳類成体由来の毛様体上皮細胞を、上記浮遊凝集魂培養により培養することによってsphere(凝集魂)が形成されることが示されており、さらに該凝集魂を接着培養法にて培養することによって、ロドプシン陽性細胞が得られることが報告されている(Science 2000 March 17;287(5460):2032—2036, Tropepe V ら(文献(3)))。

[0013]

しかしながら、医療への応用を考えた場合、患者本人の毛様体上皮細胞を得ることは、非常に困難である。また、上記文献(3)においては、哺乳類成体由来の毛様体上皮細胞に網膜の幹細胞が存在すると主張されているのみであり、神経幹細胞との関連についての記載はない。

[0014]

また、虹彩色素上皮細胞は、組織が小さく細胞数も少ない。このため、該虹彩色素上皮細胞の単離培養は困難とされてきたが、本発明者は以前、ニワトリの雛の虹彩色素上皮細胞を単離培養することに成功したことを報告している(Experimental Cell Res.(1998)245,245-251(文献(4)))。上記文献(4)には、培養下の実験により、ニワトリの雛の虹彩色素上皮細胞がレンズへの分化転換能を有することが示されている。

[0015]

さらに、本発明者は以前、上記文献(4)の方法に改変を加えることにより、哺乳動物(マウス、ラット、ヒト胎児)の虹彩細胞の単離培養を可能とした (nature neuroscience 2001)4(12),1163(文献(5)))。

[0016]

上記文献(5)においては、成体ラットの虹彩組織を単離し、初代培養したところ、一部の細胞が神経マーカーを発現することが確認されたが、特異に分化した神経マーカーは検出されなかった。そこで、網膜の視細胞を得るため、培養した虹彩細胞に、視細胞の発生時期に重要な働きをすることが示唆されているCrx遺伝子を強制発現させると、上記培養した虹彩細胞は、光受容機能に必須のロドプシンタンパク質を産生することが確認された

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[0017]

【発明が解決しようとする課題】

しかしながら、上記従来の哺乳動物成体における虹彩細胞の単離、培養方法では、中枢神経系を再生するための移植源となる神経幹細胞を得ることができない。また、上記文献(5)では、哺乳動物成体から虹彩組織を単離培養することを可能としているが、哺乳動物成体の虹彩組織から虹彩色素上皮細胞を単離する方法は確立されていない。

[0018]

上記文献(5)によれば、成体ラットの虹彩細胞を単離し、培養することにより、虹彩細胞から、ロドプシンタンパク質を産生する細胞が得られることが示されている。ロドプシンタンパク質は、網膜の光受容器である杆体 (rod cell) および錐体 (cone cell) に多く含まれているタンパク質である。しかしながら、上記文献(5)の方法では、虹彩細胞を未分化幹細胞として安定に増殖させることができず、ロドプシンタンパク質を産生する細胞を多量に得ることは困難である。

[0019]

また、上記文献(5)によれば、成体ラットの虹彩細胞からロドプシンタンパク質を産生する細胞を得るためには、Crx遺伝子を強制発現させるための遺伝子導入を必要とする。しかしながら、医療への応用を考えた場合、遺伝子導入を行なうことは、DNA損傷などの危険性があり、好ましくない。

[0020]

したがって、現在のところ、哺乳動物成体由来の虹彩組織から中枢神経系を再生するため の移植源となる神経幹細胞を生産することは事実上困難である。

[0021]

虹彩色素上皮細胞は、患者本人からその細胞の一部を採取することが可能であるので、もし、虹彩色素上皮細胞が神経幹細胞として使用可能となれば、脳、眼などの中枢神経系再生のための移植細胞源として活用することができる。すなわち、患者自身の細胞を用いた再生医療が実現することになる。したがって、虹彩色素上皮細胞が神経幹細胞として使用可能となれば、現在有効な治療方法が確立していない中枢神経疾患や網膜神経疾患のための治療方法に重要な貢献をもたらすものと期待される。

[0022]

本発明は、上記従来の問題点に鑑みなされたものであって、その目的は、中枢神経系再生における細胞移植による免疫拒絶の問題、倫理的問題、移植細胞源の需要と供給のアンバランスなどの問題を解決し得る哺乳動物の虹彩色素上皮細胞由来の神経幹細胞の生産方法、およびその方法により得られる神経幹細胞を提供することにある。また、本発明の他の目的は、上記哺乳動物の虹彩色素上皮細胞由来の神経幹細胞を神経系細胞に分化誘導し得る神経系細胞の生産方法、およびその方法により得られる神経系細胞を提供することにある。

[0023]

【課題を解決するための手段】

本発明者らは、上記課題について鋭意検討した結果、哺乳動物の眼球から純粋に単離した 虹彩色素上皮細胞を浮遊凝集魂培養方法により選択的に培養することにより神経幹細胞を 生産することが可能であることを独自に見出し、本発明を完成させるに至った。

[0024]

本発明の神経幹細胞の生産方法は、上記課題を解決するために、哺乳動物の眼球から単離した虹彩色素上皮細胞を浮遊凝集魂培養方法により選択的に培養することを特徴としている。

[0025]

上記の発明によれば、従来公知の哺乳動物成体の虹彩色素上皮の単離方法により、哺乳動物の眼球から虹彩組織を摘出し、虹彩組織を虹彩色素上皮を単離し、単離した虹彩色素上皮を、神経幹細胞の分離および選択的培養方法として従来公知のneurosphere法(浮遊凝

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集魂培養法)にて選択的に培養することにより、神経幹細胞が形成する凝集魂(sphere)と非常に類似した凝集魂を得ることができる。

[0026]

上記虹彩色素上皮由来の凝集魂は、後述するように、血清および従来公知の成長因子を添加した培地にて培養することにより神経細胞への分化を誘導することができる。また、上記虹彩色素上皮由来の凝集魂は、後述するように、生体内に移植することによっても神経細胞へ分化する。よって、このように比較的未分化な状態の上記虹彩色素上皮由来の細胞を、哺乳動物の虹彩色素上皮細胞由来の神経幹細胞と称する。

[0027]

したがって、哺乳動物の虹彩色素上皮細胞から、中枢神経系を再生するための移植源となる神経幹細胞を生産することができる。

[0028]

また、本発明の神経幹細胞の生産方法は、上記の神経幹細胞の生産方法において、上記虹 彩色素上皮細胞が、哺乳動物の眼球から虹彩組織を摘出する虹彩組織摘出工程と、摘出し た上記虹彩組織から虹彩色素上皮を分離する虹彩色素上皮分離工程とにより単離されるこ とを特徴としている。

[0029]

したがって、哺乳動物の虹彩色素上皮細胞から、中枢神経系を再生するための移植源となる神経幹細胞を生産することができる。

[0030]

また、本発明の神経幹細胞は、上記の神経幹細胞の生産方法により得られる。

[0031]

それゆえ、本発明の神経幹細胞生産方法、およびその方法を用いた神経幹細胞は、中枢神経系再生における細胞移植による免疫拒絶の問題、倫理的問題、移植細胞源の需要と供給のアンバランスなどの問題を解決し得る移植細胞源を提供することができる。よって、本発明の神経幹細胞生産方法、およびその方法を用いた神経幹細胞は、現在有効な治療方法が確立していない中枢神経疾患や網膜神経疾患のための治療方法に重要な貢献をもたらす可能性が高い。

[0032]

本発明の神経系細胞の生産方法は、上記課題を解決するために、哺乳動物の眼球から単離した虹彩色素上皮細胞を浮遊凝集魂培養方法により選択的に培養することにより神経幹細胞を生産する神経幹細胞生産工程と、上記神経幹細胞生産工程により得られた神経幹細胞を神経系細胞に分化させる神経幹細胞分化工程とを含むことを特徴としている。

[0033]

上記の発明によれば、上記哺乳動物の虹彩色素上皮細胞由来の神経幹細胞を従来公知の培養方法により培養する、または従来公知の移植方法により上記神経幹細胞を生体内に移植することによって上記哺乳動物の虹彩色素上皮細胞由来の神経幹細胞を神経系細胞に分化誘導することができる。

[0034]

本発明の神経系細胞の生産方法は、上記課題を解決するために、哺乳動物の眼球から単離した虹彩色素上皮細胞を浮遊凝集魂培養方法により選択的に培養することにより神経幹細胞を生産する神経幹細胞生産工程と、上記神経幹細胞生産工程により得られた神経幹細胞を接着培養法により培養する接着培養工程とを含むことを特徴としている。

[0035]

上記の発明によれば、上記哺乳動物の虹彩色素上皮細胞由来の神経幹細胞を従来公知の接着培養法により培養することにより、上記哺乳動物の虹彩色素上皮細胞由来の神経幹細胞を神経系細胞に分化誘導することができる。

[0036]

従来公知の成長因子および血清を組み合わせて、接着培養を行なうための培地に添加する ことにより、神経幹細胞を神経系細胞に分化誘導することができる。

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[0037]

したがって、上記哺乳動物の虹彩色素上皮細胞由来の神経幹細胞を神経系細胞に分化誘導 し得る神経系細胞の生産方法、およびその方法により得られる神経系細胞を提供すること ができる。

[0038]

また、本発明の神経系細胞の生産方法は、上記の神経系細胞の生産方法において、上記虹 彩色素上皮細胞が、哺乳動物の眼球から虹彩組織を摘出する虹彩組織摘出段階と、摘出し た上記虹彩組織から虹彩色素上皮を分離する虹彩色素上皮分離段階とにより単離されるこ とを特徴としている。

[0039]

したがって、上記哺乳動物の虹彩色素上皮細胞由来の神経幹細胞を神経系細胞に分化誘導 し得る神経系細胞の生産方法、およびその方法により得られる神経系細胞を提供すること ができる。

[0040]

また、本発明の神経系細胞は、上記の神経系細胞の生産方法により得られる。

[0041]

それゆえ、本発明の神経幹細胞の生産方法、およびその方法により得られる神経幹細胞、ならびに神経系細胞の生産方法、およびその方法により得られる神経系細胞は、現在有効な治療方法が確立していない中枢神経疾患や網膜神経疾患のための治療方法に重要な貢献をもたらす可能性が高い。

[0042]

【発明の実施の形態】

[実施の形態1]

本発明の実施の一形態について図1ないし図2に基づいて説明すれば、以下の通りである。なお、本発明はこれに限定されるものではない。

[0043]

本発明者は、中枢神経系再生における細胞移植による免疫拒絶の問題、倫理的問題、移植細胞源の需要と供給のアンバランスなどの問題を解決する目的で、哺乳動物の虹彩色素上皮細胞由来の神経幹細胞を生産した。

[0 0 4 4]

本実施の形態の神経幹細胞の生産方法は、哺乳動物の眼球から単離した虹彩色素上皮細胞を浮遊凝集魂培養方法により選択的に培養する方法である。

[0045]

すなわち、本実施の形態の神経幹細胞の生産方法は、図1に示すように、少なくとも、哺乳動物の眼球から虹彩色素上皮細胞を単離する虹彩色素上皮細胞単離工程(ステップ1、以下ステップをSと略す)と、単離した虹彩色素上皮細胞を浮遊凝集魂培養方法により選択的に培養する選択的培養工程(S2)とを含んでいる。なお、本発明にかかる神経幹細胞の生産方法はこれに限定されるものではなく、他の工程が含まれていてもよい。

[0046]

本実施の形態の神経幹細胞の生産方法に用いる上記哺乳動物は、胎児から成体に至るまでのどの時期の個体であってもよい。すなわち、本実施の形態の神経幹細胞の生産方法は、哺乳動物胎児の虹彩色素上皮細胞由来の神経幹細胞を生産することが可能なことは言うまでもないが、哺乳動物成体の虹彩色素上皮細胞由来の神経幹細胞を生産することが可能である。

[0047]

S1の虹彩色素上皮細胞単離工程は、虹彩色素上皮細胞を単離できればよく、その具体的な手法等については特に限定されるものではない。一般的には、従来公知の手法を利用して、哺乳動物の眼球から虹彩組織を摘出し、摘出した虹彩組織から虹彩色素上皮細胞を単離すればよい。哺乳動物の眼球から虹彩組織を摘出する方法としては、前記文献(5)に記載の方法を用いることが好ましい。

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[0048]

S2の選択的培養工程は、哺乳動物の眼球から単離した虹彩色素上皮細胞のみを選択的に 培養できればよく、その具体的な手法等については特に限定されるものではない。一般的 には、従来公知の手法を利用して、哺乳動物の眼球から単離した虹彩色素上皮細胞のみを 選択的に培養すればよい。

[0049]

ここで、上記選択的培養工程(S2)には、プロセス6(以下、プロセスをPと略す)として、上記虹彩色素上皮細胞単離工程(S1)において単離された虹彩色素上皮細胞を凝集している状態から個々の細胞に解離するための細胞解離段階と、P7として、単離した虹彩色素上皮細胞のみを選択的に培養する細胞培養段階とが含まれる。

[0050]

以下、上記選択的培養工程(S2)の各段階P6およびP7について詳細に説明する。まず、P6の上記細胞解離段階は、単離された虹彩色素上皮のシート状の細胞を個々の細胞に解離できればよく、その具体的な手法等については特に限定されるものではない。一般的には、従来公知の手法を利用して、単離された虹彩色素上皮のシート状の細胞を個々の細胞に解離すればよい。

[0051]

例えば、P6の上記細胞解離段階は、市販のトリプシン溶液を用いて、単離された虹彩色素上皮のシート状の細胞を個々の細胞に解離する。また、例えば、P6の上記細胞解離段階は、上記トリプシン溶液を用いずに、市販のマイクロピペットを用いたピペッティング操作により、単離された虹彩色素上皮のシート状の細胞を個々の細胞に解離することもできる。

[0052]

なお、P6の上記細胞解離段階に用いられる試薬および器具は、特に限定されるものではなく、単離された虹彩色素上皮細胞を凝集している状態から個々の細胞に解離することが可能な従来公知の試薬および器具を用いることができる。

[0053]

P7の細胞培養段階は、単離した虹彩色素上皮細胞のみを選択的に培養することができればよく、その具体的な手法等については特に限定されるものではない。一般的には、従来公知の手法を利用して、単離した虹彩色素上皮細胞のみを選択的に培養すればよい。好ましくはScience 1992:225;1707-1710 (文献(6)) に記載のneurosphere法 (浮遊凝集魂培養法)を利用して、哺乳動物の眼球から単離した虹彩色素上皮細胞のみを選択的に培養する。

[0054]

例えば、P7の上記細胞培養段階は、市販の無血清培地に市販のN2サプリメントを加えたものを浮遊凝集魂培養用の培養液として使用する。P6の上記細胞解離段階にて解離された上記虹彩色素上皮細胞を、上記浮遊凝集魂培養用の培養液中にて、市販のシェイカーを用いて回転を加えながら培養する。これによって、脳、脊髄由来の神経幹細胞が形成する凝集魂(sphere)と非常に類似した、図2に示す凝集魂を得ることができる。

[0055]

なお、P7の上記細胞培養段階に用いられる培養液および試薬は、特に限定されるものではなく、脳、脊髄由来の神経幹細胞が形成する凝集魂 (sphere) と非常に類似した、凝集魂を得ることが可能な従来公知の培養液および試薬を用いることができる。

[0056]

上記虹彩色素上皮由来の凝集魂は、後述するように、血清および従来公知の成長因子を添加した培地にて培養することにより神経細胞への分化を誘導することができる。また、上記虹彩色素上皮由来の凝集魂は、後述するように、生体内に移植することによっても神経細胞へ分化する。よって、このように比較的未分化な状態の上記虹彩色素上皮由来の細胞を、哺乳動物の虹彩色素上皮細胞由来の神経幹細胞と称する。

[0057]

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韓発軒る心心切明経本、まな。るあで去式るれる贈単でよいと野工糖代皮土素色深頂るす 期分を支土素色深速さな輸路深速活土なし出離、3野工出離輸路深速るで出離を輸路深速 るべ欲期の砂値ぼ前、水跳畔安土素色深速によ、よい去式至出の跳畔辞野時の影派の誠実本

。いよるアいアパキ合が野工の助、)なれずのよるパち宝型 上皮分離工程(P2)が含まれる。なな、ななりにかかず神経幹細胞の生産方法はこれに を素上皮細胞単離工程(SI)には、後近する虹彩組織縮出工程(PI) および虹彩色素 深速点土、ゴるさ、バま含なく(SS)野工業部的死選と(IS)野工郷単硝麻支土素金 ※政とろうな心、ゴぐよを示い「図」は当大室主の鼠略역発軒の態③の能実本、されなを [8900]

)に記載の方法を利用して、哺乳動物の眼球から虹彩組織を縮出すればよい。 る) 猫文場前, おうしま様。いよれずしがき網路を網路は次はる心を期の砂値原即, ブリ用体を お手の成公来が、おい的歌ー。いなおすのもるれる気息はなけていてい等法律な的本具の → プラガバきが出端を締除
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の<br の砂値原制, ブリムを耳, 対でまず示い[図]は、関しに示すように、 P3として、哺乳動物の

以下、上記虹彩組織摘出工程(PI)の各段階P3~P5について詳細に説明する。まず [1900]

れるものではなく、他の工程が含まれていてもよい。

手法を利用して、哺乳動物の服球から虹彩組織のみを切除すればよい。 の映公来が、おい的歌一。いなおでのよるパを宝郹い帯おていてい夢去手な的朴具の多、 > よれれきで剝砂を4の難略深速され表現の破腫虎神 、 は割弱線吸縮路深速に上の E T ,

る心凝期の砂値原期ブ心用多薙ログトアの頭市、制剤均╣砂瓣路深速に上の 8 年、私 5 時 [2900]

。いよれれも野型素類を翻路

なからればよい。 〉を今」贈伝含支土素白深頂さな翻路深頂、ア」用店含去手の映公来が、おご的強一。い なれてのよるパさ宝別、特はアいてコ等去手な的本具のろ、であてのよるも野処素類多点 P4の上記酵素処理段階は、虹彩組織から虹彩色素上皮を分離しやすくするために虹彩組 [8900]

。るきずなくこるい用多薬焼びよは素類の映公来 **弥な鎖師ひこるも野処含鱗脉深ኪコイトよるもクもゆし瓣伝含夷土素色深頂イイイが離腺窓頂** P 4 の上記酵素処理段階に用いられる酵素および試薬は、特に限定されるものではなく、 、まな。るかさ杰団間伝り8~02アゴ中承裕ATEIも含金(舞摺四くミてだくてモエ:b 落液中にて15~40分間反応させた後、市販のBDA (ethylenediaminetetraacetic aci サーバストでは含含サーバストでの頭市多癬路深速、均割毀野巡素類瑞土の4円、別え時 [7900]

[9900] が、おい的郷一。いなれてのよるパさ金頭い替れていてい等去手な的本具の子, (あでの P5の上記虹彩組織回復処理段階は、酵素処理によって衰弱した虹彩組織を回復させるも [9900]

青血の映公来新な第四なくこるも動画な難勝深頂かし設度, > なわでのよるパを転刷以料 , なま、P5の土記虹彩組織回復処理段階に用いられる血膏を含む音楽液なまり るサ各動国多瓣脎深速ブサ各面反開代03~06,ブゴ中旅業部位含含青血見訊ぐその頭 而含辦路深速, 於初页の問對野越素類語上, 結問對野域數回辦路深速話上の 8 日, 約 5 例

を含む培養液および試薬を用いることができる。

[0067]

また、上記虹彩組織摘出工程(P1)においては、P4の上記酵素処理段階およびP5の上記虹彩組織回復処理段階の反応時間が特に重要である。P4の上記酵素処理段階の上記虹彩組織の上記ディスパーゼ溶液による反応時間、および上記EDTA溶液による反応時間、ならびにP5の上記虹彩組織回復処理段階の上記ウシ胎児血清を含む培養液による反応時間を調節することによって、ニワトリだけではなく、マウス、ラット、ヒトの眼球から虹彩色素上皮を分離することができる。

[0068]

マウスの眼球から上記虹彩色素上皮単離する場合は、上記虹彩組織を $25\sim37$ ℃の上記 1000 U/mLのディスパーゼ溶液により $15\sim40$ 分間反応させ、室温下にて上記 0.05 ~0 . 1% EDTA溶液により $16\sim40$ 分間反応させ、ウシ胎児血清を $8\sim10$ %含む培養液により $30\sim120$ 分間反応させることが好ましい。

[0069]

また、生後10日のマウスの眼球から上記虹彩色素上皮単離する場合は、上記虹彩組織を37℃の上記1000U/mLのディスパーゼ溶液により16分間反応させ、室温下にて上記0.05%EDTA溶液により20分間反応させ、ウシ胎児血清を8%含む培養液により90分間反応させることが特に好ましい。

[0070]

また、生後12日のマウスの眼球から上記虹彩色素上皮単離する場合は、上記虹彩組織を37℃の上記1000U/mLのディスパーゼ溶液により20分間反応させ、室温下にて上記0.05%EDTA溶液により25分間反応させ、ウシ胎児血清を8%含む培養液により60分間反応させることが特に好ましい。

[0071]

また、生後2ヶ月のマウスの眼球から上記虹彩色素上皮単離する場合は、上記虹彩組織を37℃の上記1000U/mLのディスパーゼ溶液により30分間反応させ、室温下にて上記0.05%EDTA溶液により40分間反応させ、ウシ胎児血清を8%含む培養液により30分間反応させることが特に好ましい。

[0072]

ラットの眼球から上記虹彩色素上皮単離する場合は、上記虹彩組織を37℃の上記1000U/mLのディスパーゼ溶液により $15\sim40$ 分間反応させ、室温下にて上記0.05% EDTA溶液により $15\sim60$ 分間反応させ、ウシ胎児血清を $8\sim10$ %含む培養液により $30\sim120$ 分間反応させることが好ましい。

[0073]

ヒト胎児の眼球から上記虹彩色素上皮単離する場合は、上記虹彩組織を $25 \sim 37$ Cの上記 $500 \sim 1000$ U/mLのディスパーゼ溶液により $15 \sim 30$ 分間反応させ、室温下にて上記 $0.05 \sim 0.1\%$ EDTA溶液により $15 \sim 40$ 分間反応させ、ウシ胎児血清を $8 \sim 10\%$ 含む培養液により $10 \sim 60$ 分間反応させることが好ましい。

[0074]

また、生後19週のヒト胎児の眼球から上記虹彩色素上皮単離する場合は、上記虹彩組織を37℃の上記1000U/mLのディスパーゼ溶液により30分間反応させ、室温下にて上記0.05%EDTA溶液により30分間反応させ、ウシ胎児血清を8%含む培養液により60分間反応させることが特に好ましい。

[0075]

なお、上記培養液としては、例えば、invitrogen社製「DMEM培地」を用いて、市販のウシ 胎児血清を適量添加したものを用いればよい。

[0076]

P2の上記虹彩色素上皮分離工程は、上記虹彩組織摘出工程 (P1) にて摘出した虹彩基質と虹彩色素上皮とから構築される虹彩組織から、虹彩色素上皮のみを分離できればよく、その具体的な手法等については特に限定されるものではない。一般的には、従来公知の

手法を利用して、虹彩組織から虹彩色素上皮のみを分離すればよい。

[0077]

例えば、P2の上記虹彩色素上皮分離工程は、回復させた上記虹彩組織から、市販のマイクロピンセットを用いて、虹彩色素上皮のみをはがして回収することにより、虹彩基質と虹彩色素上皮とを分離する。

[0078]

本実施の形態の神経幹細胞は、上記哺乳動物の虹彩色素上皮細胞由来の神経幹細胞の生産方法により得られる。

[0079]

「実施の形態 2]

本発明の他の実施の形態について図3に基づいて説明すれば、以下の通りである。なお、本発明はこれに限定されるものではない。また、説明の便宜上、実施の形態1で説明した 事項と実質的に同一の事項については、適宜その説明を省略する。

[0800]

本実施の形態の神経系細胞の生産方法は、哺乳動物の眼球から単離した虹彩色素上皮細胞を浮遊凝集魂培養方法により選択的に培養することにより神経幹細胞を生産する神経幹細胞生産工程と、上記神経幹細胞生産工程により得られた神経幹細胞を接着培養法により培養する接着培養工程とを有する。

[0081]

すなわち、本実施の形態の神経系細胞の生産方法は、図3に示すように、少なくとも、上記虹彩色素上皮細胞単離工程(S1)と上記選択的培養工程(S2)とを含む神経幹細胞生産工程(S3)、および神経幹細胞を接着培養法により培養する接着培養工程(S4)を含んでいる。なお、本発明にかかる神経系細胞の生産方法はこれに限定されるものではなく、他の工程が含まれていてもよい。

[0082]

上記神経幹細胞生産工程(S3)は、前記実施の形態1にて説明した神経幹細胞の生産方法と同様にして行なう。

[0083]

上記神経系細胞とは、ニューロン(神経細胞)、および非神経細胞であるグリア細胞を含むものとする。上記グリア細胞は、ニューロンの特徴のひとつである能動的な電気的応答を示さないが、ニューロンの支持、または栄養をニューロンに供給するなどニューロンに対して様々な機能を担う細胞である。上記グリア細胞は、その機能や特徴によって、脊椎動物においては、アストログリア(アストロサイト)、ミクログリア(ミクログリア細胞)、オリゴデンドログリア(オリゴデンドロサイト)、シュワン細胞の4種類に分類される。また、上記グリア細胞は、成長因子に対して応答する。

[0084]

S4の接着培養工程は、神経幹細胞生産工程(S3)にて得られた哺乳動物の虹彩色素上皮細胞由来の神経幹細胞を神経系細胞に分化誘導できればよく、その具体的な手法等については特に限定されるものではない。一般的には、従来公知の手法を利用して、神経幹細胞を神経系細胞に分化誘導すればよい。例えば、S4の接着培養工程は、上記文献(6)に記載の接着培養法を利用してもよい。

[0085]

また、S4の上記接着培養工程は、例えば以下のようにして接着培養を行なえばよい。

[0086]

接着培養用の培地としては、ウシ胎児血清を含む市販のDMEM培地に市販の従来公知の成長因子を添加したものを使用する。一般に神経幹細胞の分化誘導系においては、成長因子による刺激をなくすために、成長因子を培養液に加えない血清入りの培地を用いるが、本実施の形態の神経系細胞の生産方法に用いる接着培養用の培地としては、従来公知の成長因子を添加した血清入りの培地を使用する。

[0087]

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神経幹細胞生産工程(S3)にて得られた哺乳動物の虹彩色素上皮細胞由来の神経幹細胞を、市販のマイクロピペットを用いて市販の接着培養用の培養皿へ移動する。上記接着培養用の培養皿へ移動した上記哺乳動物の虹彩色素上皮細胞由来の神経幹細胞を、上記接着培養用の培地を用いて市販の炭酸ガス培養装置中にて静置して培養する。炭酸ガス濃度は5%が好ましい。

[0088]

これによって、上記哺乳動物の虹彩色素上皮細胞由来の神経幹細胞を神経系細胞に分化誘導することができる。

[0089]

上記接着培養用の培地には、FGF (fibroblast growth factor: 繊維芽細胞成長因子)を $10\sim40$ n g/mL、EGF (epidermal growth factor: 上皮成長因子)を $10\sim40$ n g/mL、RA (retinoic acid: ビタミンA)を $0.1\sim2$ μ M添加することが好ましいが、特にこれに限定されるものではない。

[0090]

上記接着培養用の培養皿としては、ラミニン (laminin)、コラーゲン (collagen) などの細胞外基質成分がコートされた培養皿、またはポリDリジンコートの培養皿が好ましいが、特にこれに限定されるものではない。

[0091]

なお、S4の上記接着培養工程に用いられる培地、培養皿および添加する因子は、特に限 定されるものではなく、上記哺乳動物の虹彩色素上皮細胞由来の神経幹細胞を神経系細胞 に分化誘導することが可能な従来公知の培地、培養皿および因子を用いることができる。 【0092】

ここで、S 4 の上記接着培養工程に用いられる培地に添加する成長因子としては、例えば、FGF (fibroblast growth factor: 繊維芽細胞成長因子)、EGF (epidermal growth factor: 上皮成長因子)、BDNF (brain derived nutritional factor: 脳由来神経栄養因子)、LIF (leukemia inhibitory factor: 白血病抑制因子)、CNTF (毛様体神経節神経栄養因子)、NT-3 (neurotrophin-3:ニューロトロフィン-3)、NT-4 (neurotrophin-4:ニューロトロフィン-4)、RA (retinoic acid: ビタミンA)、PDGF (platelet derived growth factor:血小板由来成長因子)、T3 (triiodothyronine:トリヨードチロニン)が挙げられる。

[0093]

S 4 の上記接着培養工程は、上記のような従来公知の成長因子、および血清を含んだ接着培養用の培地、ならびに細胞外基質成分がコートされた培養皿を用いて、上記哺乳動物の虹彩色素上皮細胞由来の神経幹細胞を接着培養法にて培養することにより、上記哺乳動物の虹彩色素上皮細胞由来の神経幹細胞の神経系細胞への分化を促すことができる。

[0094]

なお、接着培養用の培地に添加する因子の組み合わせや、培養皿をコートする細胞外基質成分の組み合わせを変えることにより、上記哺乳動物の虹彩色素上皮細胞由来の神経幹細胞から様々な神経細胞種を産生することが可能である。

[0095]

また、本実施の形態の神経系細胞の生産方法は、上記虹彩色素上皮細胞が、哺乳動物の眼球から虹彩組織を摘出する虹彩組織摘出段階と、摘出した上記虹彩組織から虹彩色素上皮を分離する虹彩色素上皮分離段階とにより単離される方法である。なお、本発明にかかる神経系細胞の生産方法はこれに限定されるものではなく、他の工程が含まれていてもよい

[0096]

上記虹彩組織摘出段階および上記虹彩色素上皮分離段階は、それぞれ前記実施の形態 1 にて説明した虹彩組織摘出工程 (P1) ならびに虹彩色素上皮分離工程 (P2) と実質的に同一である。

[0097]

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。いるよういてれま含な野工のか、> なむでのよるれる宝刷コパこむ 表式国主の朗畔系辞析るかなは明経本、まな。るもすると野工が代朗畔韓発軒るかさか代 経幹細胞生産工程と、上記神経幹細胞生産工程により得られた神経幹細胞を神経系細胞に ・ 解るを査主を連続業務等のよびよびよるを養育が的児童(よびま)を主義事業等を要求を重要を重要を重要しませる。

土、みプロよびとこる下酢移以内林里多朗略鋒鞍軒のより去式声移の映公来が、別入門。 。いなわずのよる水さ金頭コ砕わすいでコ等法手な的本具の子、> よれれきず薬矯か伝コ 上記神経幹細胞分化工程は、哺乳動物の虹彩色素上皮細胞由来の神経幹細胞を神経系細胞 [8600]

[6600] 。るず17代51個職系發幣51個職幹海豚の來由想點安上素色系數の破壞房期品

。る すか 代 3 ~ 朗略 発 軒 な 的 異 幹 な し ふ 極 い 穀票、013155を計移31内本土を銀職算路軒の来由銀職支土素当等政の砂値原制馬土

紅彩色素上皮細胞由来の神経幹細胞を神経系細胞に分化するようにしてもよい。 の世権原制語し、アヘよいとこくで、多不同、野工財務組制部制制の生体内に移植する(神経幹)細胞移植工程、 腫序脚,多硼麻脊頚軒の来由硼麻丸土素色等独の砂値原脚に上れる事では(88)野工 新生の場所の主要を表現している(4 C) 野工業部を発信上の影派の敵実本、アンなうし [0010]

移聞職律経幹による(42)野工業常養発品土、みま。いよみアい用きるさ当の野工酢移 すなわち、上記神経幹細胞分化工程は、上記接着培養工程(54)または上記神経幹細胞 rorol

[2010] 。いよれえな行を野工財移伽略韓発軒

。る考づなくこるい用を封衣の殴公来銃 は乳動物の虹彩色素上皮細胞由来の神経幹細胞を神経系細胞に分化誘導することが可能な 記し、) なおずのもるれさ会関い替、は大きれるからがらないないが、 はなく、上記神経幹細胞分化工程に用いられる方法は、特に関えるよるもののはない。

[6103]

。るれる軒でより去式至出側除系統的に上、打倒略系統的の意派の敵実本、かま

またいはくこるれま会ご囲産的形式の開発本、もプいてい憲法の放棄るれる得了せ合み ・監査監予翌手的帯技式れる示開れ学れ予以憲派の施実るな異、であず部でも更変の本種で 囲遊ふし示い更求請, / かれずのよるれる宝型い態派の敵実各かし近上, が明経本, はか [1010]

[90I0] C1292

【倾献実】

。いなわののよるれる虫型コパニ制肥 発本 ,水るも明端に出る本人は全人に基づいて基づるとり具体的に説明するか、人人

日々2 <u>勢</u> 担づひるな合風を<u>勢</u> 担びよる日日2 L~9 <u>勢</u> 担、(手入るながていなれたまね) Jと「678L6」) スペラの月42巻生び生後12日後14巻きが前のマウナ (678L6) 5L (郷単の跳麻虫上素色绿油) [9010]

。六J出辭玄鴎畔玫土素西深頂&��(萮霑承会員委野渝ー々くサ半、掛點りよ曼認

am lenediam (ethylenediam / U からし、05%ED (ethylenediam / U 000 [(襲卦函計同合 [(dispase)) サーバストで]) 弥容サーバストでのぴ 7 € 多齢 [2010]

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inetetraacetic acid:エチレンジアミン四酢酸)溶液中にて $20\sim30$ 分間反応させた。反応後、上記虹彩組織をウシ胎児血清を8%含む培養液(「DMEV1倍地」invitrogen社製)中にて、 $30\sim60$ 分間反応させ、上記虹彩組織を回復させた。その後、市販のマイクロピンセットを用いて、虹彩色素上皮のみを上記虹彩組織からはがして回収することにより、虹彩基質と虹彩色素上皮とを分離した。

[0108]

生後10日のマウスにおいては、上記虹彩組織を37℃の上記1000U/mLのディスパーゼ溶液により16分間反応させ、室温下にて上記0.05%EDTA溶液により20分間反応させ、ウシ胎児血清を8%含む培養液により90分間反応させた。

[0109]

また、生後12日のマウスにおいては、上記虹彩組織を37℃の上記1000U/mLのディスパーゼ溶液により20分間反応させ、室温下にて上記0.05% EDTA溶液により25分間反応させ、ウシ胎児血清を8%含む培養液により60分間反応させた。

[0110]

また、生後2ヶ月のマウスにおいては、上記虹彩組織を37℃の上記1000U/mLのディスパーゼ溶液により30分間反応させ、室温下にて上記0.05%EDTA溶液により40分間反応させ、ウシ胎児血清を8%含む培養液により30分間反応させた。

[0111]

生後11日のラットにおいては、上記虹彩組織を上記1000U/mLのディスパーゼ溶液により20分間反応させ、上記0.05%EDTA溶液により25分間反応させ、ウシ胎児血清を8%含む培養液(「DMEM培地」invitrogen社製)により90分間反応させた。

[0112]

生後19週のヒト胎児においては、上記虹彩組織を37℃の上記1000U/mLのディスパーゼ溶液により30分間反応させ、室温下にて上記0.05%EDTA溶液により30分間反応させ、ウシ胎児血清を8%含む培養液により60分間反応させた。

[0113]

(浮遊凝集魂培養法)

上記分離した虹彩色素上皮組織は、市販のトリプシン溶液を用いて細胞に解離した。その後、該解離した虹彩色素上皮細胞を、上記文献(6)に記載のneurosphere法(浮遊凝集魂培養法)によって、選択的に培養した。浮遊凝集魂培養の培地には、無血清培地(「DM BM/F12培地」invitrogen社製)に、invitrogen社製のN2サプリメントを1/100量加えたものを使用した。トリプシン処理した上記虹彩色素上皮細胞を、上記の浮遊凝集魂培養液中にて、市販のシェイカーを用いて回転を加えながら培養することにより、脳または脊髄由来の神経幹細胞が形成する凝集魂(sphere)と非常に類似した図2に示す凝集魂を得た。

[0114]

(神経幹細胞の接着培養による神経細胞への分化誘導)

生後10日、生後12日および生後2ヶ月のマウスの眼球より単離した虹彩式色素上皮細胞を上記浮遊凝集魂培養後、接着培養を以下のように行なった。

[0115]

ウシ胎児血清を8%含むinvitrogen社製のDMBM培地に、FGF-2 (fibroblast growth facto r-2: 繊維芽細胞成長因子-2) を30 n g/m L、EGF (epidermal growth factor:上皮成長因子) を30 n g/m L 添加したものを接着培養用の培地として使用した。

[0116]

上記浮遊凝集魂培養法により得られた上記マウスの虹彩色素上皮細胞由来の神経幹細胞を 、市販のマイクロピペットを用いて市販の接着培養用の培養皿へ移動した。接着培養用の 培養皿は、ラミニンによってコートされているものを使用した。上記接着培養用の培養皿 へ移動した上記マウスの虹彩色素上皮細胞由来の神経幹細胞を、上記接着培養用の培地を 用いて市販の炭酸ガス培養装置中にて静置して培養した。また、炭酸ガス濃度は5%とし た。上記の接着培養によって、ニューロンまたはグリア細胞のマーカーを産生する細胞が 検出された。

[0117]

また、生後19週のヒト胎児の眼球より単離した虹彩式色素上皮細胞を上記浮遊凝集魂培養後、接着培養を以下のように行なった。

[0118]

ウシ胎児血清を8%含むinvitrogen社製のDMEM培地に、RA(retinoic acid: ビタミンA)を 1μ M添加したものを接着培養用の培地として使用した。接着培養用の培養皿は、ラミニン(laminin)によってコートされているBiocoot社製の培養皿を使用した。上記接着培養用の培養皿へ移動した上記ヒト胎児の虹彩色素上皮細胞由来の神経幹細胞を、上記接着培養用の培地を用いて市販の炭酸ガス培養装置中にて静置して培養した。また、炭酸ガス濃度は5%とした。上記の条件にて接着培養を行なった結果、上記ヒト胎児の虹彩色素上皮細胞由来の神経幹細胞を、神経系細胞ではないが、レンズ細胞に分化誘導することができた。

[0119]

(神経幹細胞の細胞移植による神経細胞への分化誘導)

生後9~12日のマウスの眼球より単離した虹彩式色素上皮細胞を上記浮遊凝集魂培養法により培養したものを、ProNAS(1997)127,1-11に記載の移植方法により、妊娠12日目のマウスの子宮内胎児の脳室にマイクロガラス針を用いて移植した。移植した細胞の数は、5000~2000個/脳である。

[0120]

移植細胞の標識には、DiI (molecular probe社製) 蛍光色素を用いる方法と、虹彩式色素上皮細胞がGFP (green fluorescence protein) によって遺伝的に標識された形質転換マウス (大阪大学、岡部勝教授より提供) の虹彩色素上皮細胞を用いる方法との二種類の方法を用いた。

[0121]

蛍光色素DiIを用いる方法について、図4に基づいて以下に説明する。

[0 1 2 2]

生後10日目のマウスの眼球から虹彩組織を摘出し、摘出した虹彩組織から虹彩色素上皮細胞を単離し、単離した虹彩色素上皮細胞を蛍光色素DiIにて標識した。蛍光色素DiIにて標識した虹彩色素上皮細胞を妊娠12日目のマウスの子宮内胎児の脳室にマイクロガラス針を用いて移植した。

[0123]

上記移植後7日目に、蛍光色素DiIにて標識した虹彩色素上皮細胞を移植した上記のマウス胎児の脳を摘出し、摘出した脳をリン酸緩衝液 (PBS) にて4%に希釈したパラホルムアルデヒド (PFA: paraformaldehyde) 溶液中にて、4℃で4時間固定した。その後、固定した脳を、シュークロース (sucrose) を20%含んだリン酸緩衝液中に4℃で一晩置いた。

[0124]

次に、固定した脳の凍結切片を作製し、細胞核を染色するために、sigma社製のDAPI (4', 6-diamidino-2-phenylindole) を 1μ g/m L に希釈したDAPI希釈液中にて脳切片を 3 0 分間反応させた。上記のDAPIを希釈する溶液は、非特異的な抗体の吸着を防ぐためのブロッキングを同時に行なうため、10%ヤギ血清 (normal goat serum) 溶液を用いた。これによって、DAPI染色とブロッキングとを同時に行なった。

[0125]

次に、一次抗体として、神経細胞のチューブリンを認識する神経マーカーである tubulin 抗体 (「tubulin」」 BAbCO社製) を用いた。上記 tubulin 抗体を1/500に希釈した抗体 希液中にて脳切片を4℃で一晩、または37℃で1時間反応させた。その後、PBSで5分間洗浄した。この洗浄操作を3回行なった。

[0126]

二次抗体には、molecular probe社製のanti-mouse IgG-Alexa488抗体を用いた。上記二次

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抗体を希釈した抗体希液中にて脳切片を室温で1時間反応させた。その後、PBSで5分間 洗浄した。この洗浄操作を3回行なった。

[0127]

その後、蛍光顕微鏡を用いて脳切片を観察した結果を図5(a)~図5(d)に示す。

[0128]

図5 (a)では、マウス胎児の脳内に移植した蛍光色素DiIにて標識した虹彩色素上皮細胞が染色されており、マウス眼球から単離した虹彩色素上皮細胞がマウス胎児の脳内に移植されていたことが確認できる。図中の灰色の部分が蛍光色素DiIにて標識した虹彩色素上皮細胞を示している。

[0129]

図5 (b) では、図5 (a) に示すDiIにて標識した虹彩色素上皮細胞と細胞核との蛍光 二重染色像であり、移植された上記虹彩色素上皮細胞が細胞核を有する細胞体であること が確認できる。図中の黒色の部分が蛍光色素DiIにて標識した虹彩色素上皮細胞の像を示 しており、灰色の部分がDAPI抗体により認識された細胞核を有する細胞の像を示している

[0130]

図5 (c)は、図5 (a)と同一の切片の一部を強拡大したものであって、DiIにて標識した虹彩色素上皮細胞を示す。図中の灰色の部分が蛍光色素DiIにて標識した虹彩色素上皮細胞を示している。

[0131]

図5 (d) は、図5 (c) と同じ場所をtubulin抗体を観察するための波長にて観察した像を示し、マウス胎児の脳内に移植した蛍光色素DiIにて標識した虹彩色素上皮細胞が、神経系細胞に分化していたことが確認できる。図中の黒色の部分がtubulin抗体により認識された細胞の像を示している。

[0132]

虹彩式色素上皮細胞がGFPによって遺伝的に標識された市販の形質転換マウスの虹彩色素上皮細胞を用いる方法は、単離した虹彩色素上皮細胞を蛍光色素DiIにて標識しない点を除いて、上記の蛍光色素DiIを用いる方法と同様にして行なった。

[0133]

【発明の効果】

本発明の神経幹細胞生産方法は、以上のように、哺乳動物の眼球から単離した虹彩色素上皮細胞を浮遊凝集魂培養方法により選択的に培養する方法である。

[0134]

また、本発明の神経幹細胞生産方法は、上記の神経幹細胞の生産方法において、上記虹彩色素上皮細胞が、哺乳動物の眼球から虹彩組織を摘出する虹彩組織摘出工程と、摘出した上記虹彩組織から虹彩色素上皮を分離する虹彩色素上皮分離工程とにより単離される方法である。

[0135]

したがって、哺乳動物の虹彩色素上皮細胞から、中枢神経系を再生するための移植源となる神経幹細胞を生産することができる。

[0136]

また、本発明の神経幹細胞は、上記の神経幹細胞の生産方法により得られるものである。【0137】

それゆえ、本発明の哺乳動物の虹彩色素上皮細胞由来の神経幹細胞の生産方法、およびその方法を用いた神経幹細胞は、中枢神経系再生における細胞移植による免疫拒絶の問題、 倫理的問題、移植細胞源の需要と供給のアンバランスなどの問題を解決し得る移植細胞源 を提供することができるという効果を奏する。

[0138]

本発明の神経系細胞の生産方法は、以上のように、哺乳動物の眼球から単離した虹彩色素 上皮細胞を浮遊凝集魂培養方法により選択的に培養することにより神経幹細胞を生産する 10

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神経幹細胞生産工程と、上記神経幹細胞生産工程により得られた神経幹細胞を神経系細胞に分化させる神経幹細胞分化工程とを含む方法である。

[0139]

本発明の神経系細胞生産方法は、以上のように、哺乳動物の眼球から単離した虹彩色素上 皮細胞を浮遊凝集魂培養方法により選択的に培養することにより神経幹細胞を生産する神 経幹細胞生産工程と、上記神経幹細胞生産工程により得られた神経幹細胞を接着培養法に より培養する接着培養工程とを含む方法である。

[0140]

また、本発明の神経系細胞生産方法は、上記の神経系細胞の生産方法において、上記虹彩色素上皮細胞が、哺乳動物の眼球から虹彩組織を摘出する虹彩組織摘出段階と、摘出した上記虹彩組織から虹彩色素上皮を分離する虹彩色素上皮分離段階とにより単離される方法である。

[0141]

また、本発明の神経系細胞は、上記の神経系細胞の生産方法により得られるものである。 【 0 1 4 2 】

それゆえ、上記哺乳動物の虹彩色素上皮細胞由来の神経幹細胞を神経系細胞に分化誘導し 得る神経系細胞の生産方法、およびその方法により得られる神経系細胞を提供することが できるという効果を奏する。

[0143]

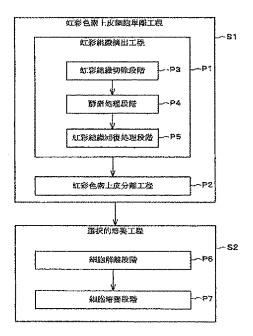
よって、本発明の神経幹細胞の生産方法、およびその方法により得られる神経幹細胞、ならびに神経系細胞の生産方法、およびその方法により得られる神経系細胞は、現在有効な治療方法が確立していない中枢神経疾患や網膜神経疾患のための治療方法に重要な貢献をもたらす可能性が高い。

【図面の簡単な説明】

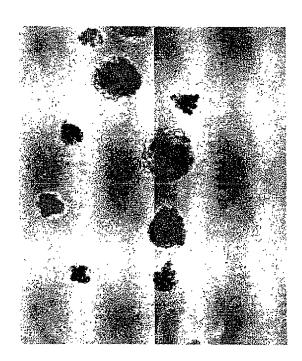
- 【図1】本発明にかかる神経幹細胞の生産方法の一例を示す概略工程図である。
- 【図2】マウスの虹彩色素上皮細胞由来の凝集魂 (sphere) を示す図面代用写真である。
- 【図3】 本発明にかかる神経系細胞の生産方法の一例を示す概略工程図である。
- 【図4】マウス胎児脳へのマウス虹彩色素上皮細胞由来の神経幹細胞を移植する場合の手順を示す説明図である。

【図5】(a)はマウス胎児の脳内に移植した蛍光色素DiIにて標識した虹彩色素上皮細胞を蛍光顕微鏡にて観察した結果を示す図面代用写真であり、(b)は(a)に示す蛍光色素DiIにて標識した虹彩色素上皮細胞と細胞核を有する細胞体との蛍光二重染色像を示す図面代用写真であり、(c)は(a)と同一の切片の一部を強拡大したものであって、蛍光色素DiIにて標識した虹彩色素上皮細胞を蛍光顕微鏡にて観察した結果を示す図面代用写真であり、(d)はtubulin抗体を観察するための波長にて(c)と同じ脳切片を蛍光顕微鏡にて観察した結果を示す図面代用写真である。

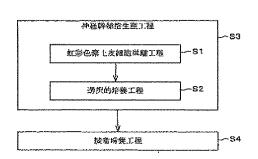
【図1】



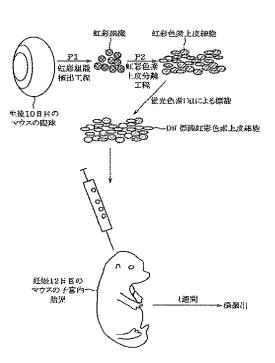
【図2】



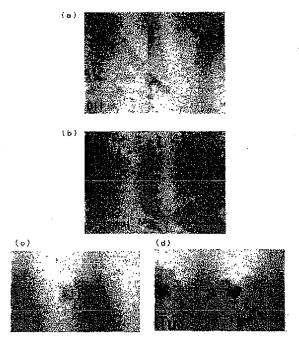
[図3]



【図4】



[図5]



フロントページの続き

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(58)調査した分野(Int.Cl.⁷, DB名)

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